Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-92-059 *26 March 1992*

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Inter-American Affairs

Costa Rican Foreign Trade Minister Rojas Lopez was quoted by Mexico City NOTIMEX on 25 March as deploring the U. S. "lack of a true commitment to move ahead with American integration." The minister urged the United States tc regain its "perspective" and to resume its "protagonist" role in promoting regional economic liberalization.

Haiti

Port-au-Prince radio announced on 25 March that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had reminded foreign diplomats of "the reserve, as it relates to their duties, they are obliged to maintain" and noting their inclination to exert "all kinds of pressure on Haitian institutions." According to AFP, the ministry's communique was issued 24 hours after U.S. Ambassador Alvin Adams paid a "courtesy visit" to Senate President Dejean Belizaire.

Venezuela

Citing the Caracas daily EL UNIVERSAL, Mexico City TV reports the Venezuelan Government's rejection of rumors that President Perez "will seek asylum in Mexico in the event his political and economic reforms fail." Democratic Action party members recently met with Perez, but spokesman Luis Emilio Rondon denied that the party leadership had asked either for the president's resignation or a reduction of his term in office. The party spokesman would not comment on the asylum in Mexico story.

Colombia

Santa Fe de Bogota TV reports that the government has decided to resume peace talks with the CNGSB, "but it will demand a cease-fire and the liberation of any persons who have been kidnapped." The daily EL TIEMPO publishes a communique issued by the CNGSB negotiating commission in which the group states: "We think the negotiations should not be disrupted by the daily tragedies that occur in our fatherland." The communique adds "under no circumstances will we accept the imposition of any conditions to continue the talks."

Costa Rica Says U.S. Not Promoting Free Trade

PA2503150892 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1136 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] San Jose, 25 Mar (NOTIMEX)— Costa Rican Foreign Trade Minister Roberto Rojas Lopez said the United States has lost the protagonist role it achieved by promoting American integration through free trade treaties.

"The Americas Initiative is in a slump. This reflects the lack of clear policy in the United States or, what would be even worse, of a true commitment to move ahead with American integration," he stressed.

Rojas, who attended the Inter-American Free Trade Commerce Conference that ended on 24 March in San Jose, said the Latin American countries are making progress toward economic opening, yet there has been no U.S. response to their efforts.

"The United States must still be the protagonist in this whole network of trade negotiations among almost all of the countries of the hemisphere because of its economic power, market size, and political force to become the engine of integration all over the world," he added.

Rojas feels the United States has lost its perspective regarding this undeniable fact.

"Framework agreements were signed with almost all of the Latin American countries and that was it. Now that phase is over and the next path to follow is not clear," he indicated.

He said one way to expedite trade liberalization in the hemisphere is to attach a general adherence clause to the free trade agreement (FTA) under negotiation by Canada, the United States, and Mexico. Such a clause would allow all the area countries to join the FTA at a pace and manner within the capabilities and possibilities of each country.

"We are in the decade of integration, which pins its hopes for the development and economic growth of our peoples on free trade. For that reason it is unadvisable to maintain this lethargy because we may lose the political momentum," Rojas indicated.

Central American Economy Meeting Results Reported

PA2603120992 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] On 25 March, Roberto Orellana Milla, president of the Central Reserve Bank [BCR] of El Salvador, announced the results of the meeting between the economy teams of Central America, which was held in Antigua Guatemala from 18 to 20 March. Orellana Milla said that regional development and the strengthening of the Central American integration process were the main topics addressed at the meeting.

[Begin recording] [Orellana] First of all, the economic teams' meetings will serve to coordinate the measures and policies needed to promote social and economic development, as well as the regional economic integration process. Another important conclusion was that harmonization and coordination of macroeconomic policies is essential to reach the objectives of regional integration and development.

A third conclusion is that social progress in Central America requires positive economic policies that will guarantee the stability of the region's economy, the creation of jobs, and the availability of those resources needed to strengthen the social programs each government is forwarding. A fourth objective was to make sure the integration process will contribute to the people's well-being. For this to happen, the process must move forward in an atmosphere of economic stability, and in an open and free market, which in turn calls for fiscal and monetary discipline.

On the specific issue of the central banks under the accords, three main agreements were reached at the meetings with the presidents of the central banks. First, to maintain economic stability, there is a need to strengthen the central banks in the region and give them greater independence, to limit government loans, and to allow the market to determine the interest and exchange rates. Let me clarify that we have made progress on this in El Salvador and we have been complying with the recommendation.

A second agreement reached, on the issue of central banks, was to promote the integration of financial markets, allowing local banks to establish branches in the other countries of the region, and integrating the stock markets operating in the various countries. The third point on central banks is to liberalize payment systems by authorizing payments to be made in local currencies, U.S. dollars, or in other strong currencies, and trying to eliminate central bank participation in such payment systems. This, in order to ease trade in Central America.

Other agreements were reached to promote regional trade. The delegates agreed to sign a uniform customs code for Central America within 90 days. They also agreed to simplify and unify all customs systems and procedures, to allow the free trade of agricultural and livestock products, and to establish a unified price system for yellow corn, rice, and tender corn. They agreed to present a common front during trade negotiations with Mexico and Venezuela, first, and then during foreign debt negotiations with developed countries; particularly with the United States. [end recording]

The BCR president, who said the meeting had been a success, also announced they had examined three loans the IDB will grant to El Salvador. The loans total $215 million, of which $75 will be for investment loans, $150 million will go to energy production, and $40 million to water and drainage projects to be carried out during this year. [all numbers as heard]

The ministers of planning, treasury, economy, and agriculture and livestock, among others, represented El Salvador at the meeting. The head officer of the BCR added that follow up meetings will be held several days before each Central American presidential summit, as scheduled by the Secretariat of Central American Economic Integration.

Cuba

Diplomatic Ties Established With Tajikistan

FL2603022092 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] PRENSA LATINA reported today that Alcibiades Hidalgo, Cuban first vice foreign minister, and Erkin Rakhmatulaev, Tajik vice foreign minister, have agreed to establish diplomatic ties between the two countries. A declaration signed by both diplomats in Dushanbe stresses the two countries' interest in strengthening bilateral ties for the good of the people of both countries.

Tajikistan, located in the south of the Commonwealth of Independent States, CIS, encompasses an area of 143,100 square km and has approximately 5.1 million inhabitants.

Havana Notes Yeltsin Intends To Remain in Post

FL2503232792 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2054 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] During a meeting at the Kremlin with leaders of parties and political movements, Russian President Boris Yeltsin declared that he has no intention of resigning from his post as head of the government. Yeltsin expressed his belief that during the next congress of Russian deputies the government and the reform policies, in general, will be under fire and that a struggle aimed at demanding his resignation as head of the cabinet will ensue.

Yeltsin pointed out that the next Congress of Deputies is not expected to be peaceful because the opposition is gaining strength. He later expressed support for the idea of convening a meeting of citizens of the Russian Federation in anticipation of the congress. The leaders of the parties and political movements that can be labelled as loyal to the Russian authorities were invited to the meeting at the Kremlin.

UJC Issues Central Report for Sixth Congress

PA2503223192 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1330 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Roberto Morejon commentary]

[Text] The central report for the Sixth Congress of the Union of Young Communists [UJC], which was disclosed to all Cubans despite the organization's selective character, summarizes this segment of the population's interest in playing a leading role in the battle to survive and perfect society.

The text, distributed prior to the congress scheduled for 31 March, points out the most persistent problems. The document offers a particular view of daily life and, above all, reaffirms confidence in the future. The UJC openly proclaims that defeatism or ideological confusion has not affected most of its members, although certain isolated elements may feel attracted to the illusions resulting from capitalism's prevalence.

The UJC's commitment to the present and the future is proven in the youths' widespread participation in production tasks, which are now a priority because of the sudden deterioration of Cuba's commercial ties with its former partners. The UJC has demanded special attitudes from its members, which they have always carried out promptly. Saving resources has bolstered the scientific-technical movement. Youths constitute 35 percent of the entire work force of the country's leading industry, sugar.

The goal of the food program is to achieve self-sufficiency. The participation of youths—whether they were members or not—in this program was significant. Some of them were even accompanied by members of informal and religious groups who, until they visited the countryside, had severed ties with study and work.

When the time came to review their work in preparation for the UJC Sixth Congress, the organization considered its rapprochement with the so-called contingents to be positive. In other words, the high productivity brigades transmitted their experiences to the less experienced by the hour. Their rate of production was significant. It proves that youths up to 30 years of age, who constitute 50 percent of the Cuban population, are playing a relevant role in the country's most important chores.

Correction to Young Communists' Report

PA2303232392

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Report on Young Communists' 'Report to Congress,'" published in the 24 March Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 2:

Column two, fourth full paragraph, first and second sentences should read: Reiterating the UJC directorate's official line, harsh attacks are made against the "small groups who supposedly defend human rights" and those who call for privatization of the economy, want a multiple party system, support the blockade, and more or less demand a return to capitalism." This attack is also aimed at "the simulators of yesterday and the obvious traitors of today," the dissident groups of a socialist democratic tendency which recently appeared under the name "third option." (changing wording)

Espin Speaks at National Sex Education Meeting

FL2503225692 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Vilma Espin, the president of the Federation of Cuban Women, today called upon the participants to continue creating a sense of responsibility in every social organization and individual involved in the education of Cuban children and teenagers. During her speech to the assessment meeting of the National Council on Sex Education, Vilma said that now is the time to guarantee

quality at the Teenagers Information Centers created in several provinces. She added that the important thing is not to concentrate on technical explanations about sexuality; the most important task is to present conferences and videos expounding the feelings of sincerity, tenderness, and understanding that should occupy first place in a relationship.

Representatives from every province and numerous organizations are attending this meeting of the National Council on Sex Education.

Tourism Causing 'Unrest' Among Some People

FL2503152792 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Comments by announcers Jorge Ibarra and Ana Margarita on the "Doing Radio" program]

[Text] [Ibarra] Have you ever heard that the country is being sold off? There are several people saying this out in the streets.

[Ana Margarita] Selling the country?

[Ibarra] Yes sir, selling the country. Tourism seems to create unrest in some people because only those who come from abroad have the right to buy certain products and enjoy facilities that were built by Cubans.

[Ana Margarita] That topic appears in the report for the Sixth Union of Young Communists [UJC] Congress.

[Ibarra] That is why I brought it up. There are things that are true.

[Ana Margarita] The fact that we do not have funds is true.

[Ibarra] We do not have funds, technology, much less markets, as yet.

[Ana Margarita] That is when the critics take advantage and speak without taking objective problems into consideration.

[Ibarra] But what they do not say is that foreign investors never own property, and that is why our sovereignty and legal system are respected absolutely.

[Ana Margarita] Tourism is an industry.

[Ibarra] Our country is not the only one that gets income from tourism, with a big difference, of course.

[Ana Margarita] Of course we do not have a tourist mentality.

[Ibarra] That is right, we need to have a tourism mentality. It would be absurd to create a tourism industry for the exclusive use of the country that creates it. It would be like setting up a candy factory. Just imagine that you and your family set up a candy factory, and ....

[Ana Margarita, interrupting] And they eat the candy. [chuckles]

[Ibarra] That is right, they eat the candy. Where are the earnings? This is why you should read the UJC Congress report—among other things, so that you will know what they are talking about during the debates, and so that you can participate in every resolution that is adopted. This is important, and the report appears in today's edition of GRANMA.

Tornadoes Affect Communications in Holguin

FL2503161292 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Holguin is working on repairs in areas affected by the tornado which occurred yesterday. I repeat that Radio Progreso and Radio Rebelde are not broadcasting there because of power failures in areas of their broadcasting antennas in Moa, Holguin Province. There are difficulties with telephones in that area, as well as with electricity service.

A bus station's roof was completely pulled off by winds of more than 100 km per hour last night which affected that area for approximately 45 minutes. At the University of Moa, a sentry box was turned over by winds and trees were uprooted. Crops were greatly affected. We are waiting for an official report that will be issued in the next few hours by the civil defense.

We have also been informed of a fire that has been reported in recent hours in fields in Holguin. Two hundred fifty hectares of the northeast area are reported to have been damaged by the fire, but it was put out by three fire departments and, of course, by the rain.

I repeat, winds of up to 100 km affected Moa from 2115 [0215 GMT] last night for a period of 45 minutes. The same tornado also affected the area of Unas in Gibara, where Yamira Serrano Guerra, age 24, in the collapse of a house. Ten other houses were damaged. Roofs of others were blown off. A childcare center, a collection warehouse, and electrical wires were all damaged.

We have not been able to establish telephone communication with the Gibara area. Fields have been damaged, and we hope to learn details in the next few minutes. Strong winds and rain damaged a theater in the area of Marcane. We do not have telephone communication with that area. At this moment we are trying to get more information from the electricity enterprise in Holguin. We hope to get complementary information through direct communication with the affected areas.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

CTO Withdraws Objection to Cuban Application

FL2503234592 Bridgetown CANA in English 2248 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 25, CANA—Cuba's longstanding efforts to join the Caribbean

Tourism Organisation [CTO] have made a move forward with the socialist island's formal recognition of the Government of Grenada. A CTO statement said "one longstanding obstacle to Cuba's wish to join CTO was removed" after Grenada's Tourism Minister Joan Purcell told a CTO board meeting in New York last week that her country had withdrawn its objection to consideration of Cuba's application.

"There are no other obstacles as far as I am aware," CTO Secretary General Jean Holder told CANA Wednesday when he was quizzed on whether there could still be barriers caused by the United States' trade and business embargo on Havana and with Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands in the organisation.

"Since the subject (Cuba's membership) has never been discussed, I could not second guess what the position of Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands might be." The Grenada objection had stopped the application "even from being considered," Holder explained. The matter will be discussed at the next board meeting in June.

Cuba refused to recognise the Grenada Government after a United States-led invasion ousted Havana's left wing ally in 1983.

"The board, made up of government tourism leaders from 28 countries as well as hoteliers, airline and cruise ship executives, travel agents and travel media, accepted the application of the Dominican Republic, which had been a member of the earlier Caribbean Tourism Association," said the CTO statement.

A formal request for membership from Mexico will be considered at the next board meeting. The Mexican state of Quintana Roo, where the major tourism developnent of Cancun is located, borders the Caribbean, and while Mexico also contains major resort destinations on the Pacific, under the CTO constitution the national government must apply for membership in the organisation.

Charles Urges Maintenance of Strong Caricom

FL2503222192 Bridgetown CANA in English 2122 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 25, CANA—Dominica's prime minister, Dame Eugenia Charles, on Wednesday urged the Caribbean Community (Caricom) to press ahead with its own efforts a deeper integration even as it attempts to broaden relations with the rest of the Caribbean Basin. But she was clearly disappointed with the slow pace of regional integration, noting that the region often made decisions but failed to implement them.

"My feeling is that we should get our little thing going," Charles said on KLAS FM's morning radio chat show programme, The Breakfast Club. The Dominican prime minister spoke against the backdrop of the present negotiations between the United States, Canada, and Mexico for the North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA), U.S. President George Bush's vision of a hemispheric free trade area and the pressure it would put on Caricom to expand its relations with regional neighbours.

The Dominican leader underlined the special relationship between the countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean which make up the 13-member Caricom. But even at that, Miss Charles, pointing to the slow pace of unity talks between the member countries of the regional sub-group, the Organisation of East Caribbean States (OECS), suggested that there were special problems that had to be overcome in dealing with the issue of integration. For instance, when dealing with the issue of integration, domestic politics often intervened, she noted. Leaders had to deal with the concerns of their constituents, she said.

But she added: "Nobody wants the opposition to lead their country into integration—they want to be the one."

Dominican Republic

Official Denies Shipment of Fuel to Haiti

FL2503193792 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Fabio Herrera Cabral says the fuel for which shipment to Haiti has been authorized is not enough to keep Haiti's current authorities in power. Herrera Cabral, who is the Dominican Republic's deputy foreign minister, denied that an alleged increase in fuel consumption in the Dominican Republic is a reflection of the shipping of the product to neighboring Haiti.

Herrera was interviewed at the National Palace and explained that the government has authorized, more than anything else, the sending of propane gas to Haiti because it is a priority item for cooking food and keeping people from cutting down trees.

CEA Denies Haitians Forced To Cut Cane Naked

FL2503190492 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] The director of the State Sugar Council [CEA] has rejected an assertion by the sociocultural movement of Haitian workers in the Dominican Republic to the effect that Haitian seasonal canefield laborers at the (Cubanuma) Plantation are being forced to cut cane naked.

CEA spokesman Jose de Jesus Reyes termed the movement's assertion fallacious and biased, and called upon its leaders to treat matters concerning their compatriots with sobriety. He said the sociocultural movement is in the habit of spreading false, bizarre, and sensationsl news reports about Haitian workers instead of undertaking programs that will benefit those workers.

De Jesus Reyes said the canecutters' conditions have changed substantially and that overthrown President Jean

Bertrand Aristide himself publicly acknowledged this during a visit he made recently to the Dominican Republic.

Haiti

Foreign Diplomats Warned To Maintain 'Reserve'

FL2503203492 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Communique issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 24 March]

[Text] The provisional government of the Republic fulfilled its duty last night by reminding the diplomats accredited in Port-au-Prince of the reserve, as it relates to their duties, they are obliged to maintain. The provisional government, begin quote, has unfortunately noted that there is a distinct inclination by several foreign diplomats to increase all kinds of pressure on Haitian institutions with the goal of changing the future of the Haitian nation along a line of objectives and interests that do not correspond to the Haitians' will. The provisional government appreciates the extent of the remarkable efforts made by most of Haiti's friends in the search for a concerted, mutually satisfying solution to the current institutional crisis. However, the government believes that a solution imposed by threats or blackmail will never lead to this consensus that is critical to the strengthening of the democratic process which Haitians strongly desire, unquote.

It is to be noted that this position on the part of the government comes 24 hours after a meeting in the Haitian parliament between the Senate president and U.S. Ambassador Alvin Adams.

[A similar report by Paris AFP in Spanish at 1503 GMT on 25 March adds that Adams met for one hour with Senator Dejean Belizaire in a "courtesy visit."]

Larosiliere on Amendments to Agreement, Bribes

FL2503214592 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in French 1230 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Numerous amendments must be made to the agreement so it can reach a wider consensus within the Haitian Parliament. This is the position expressed yesterday by Senator Julio Larosiliere, a member of the Assembly of Progressive National Democrats and also of the Grouping for Parliamentary Cohesion [Regroupement pour la Cohesion Parlementaire], a parliamentary group hostile to the ratification of the Washington agreement. Larosiliere urges the Parliament immediately to contact the provisional executive so the latter can express its views on the agreement signed in the U.S. capital on 23 February.

During a news conference held yesterday in the diplomatic lounge of the Legislative Palace, Julio Larosiliere stated that he regrets the incident that occurred on 18 March during the National Assembly session on the agreement. He believes that, if ratification had been effective, several parliamentarians would have died. Furthermore, Larosiliere gave his opinion on the rumors that several parliamentarians had allegedly received money for not voting on the Washington agreement.

[Begin Larosiliere recording] Personally, I do not give it any importance because it is not the first time that I have heard of such dealings [as heard], such accusations. Even though it is said that the National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD] and the Nationalistic Progressive Revolution Party of Haiti received money from the French and U.S. Embassies, I cannot believe something like that. Because even though, for example, there are groups within the Parliament, I consider all of them honest people because they received a mandate from the people and cannot play with it. Should another group—of which it is said that I am part—be accused of having received money from governmental sectors, I cannot believe something like that. Do you understand? Because these accusations always surface. Once one has lost, there are reciprocal accusations. Then, do you understand? There is [stammers] danger. I cannot understand that, among parliamentarians, in view of something so serious, something on which the nation's life depends, we can hurl such accusations. [end recording]

Those were Senator Julio Larosiliere's statements. We remind you that the president of the FNCD parliamentary bloc, Joseph Fignole Jean-Louis, charged on 23 March that $300,000 reportedly was handed out to several parliamentarians by several sycophants to bring about an unfavorable vote on the Washington agreement. Meanwhile, no date has been chosen yet for convening the National Assembly.

There was not a plenary session yesterday at the Lower Chamber. On the other hand, in the Upper Chamber, the senators expressed their opinions on the developments at the last National Assembly and the strategy to be adopted during the coming vote on the agreement.

Government Communique Protests Reported Bribes

FL2503221392 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 2000 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Communique issued by the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Coordination; date not given]

[Text] The provisional government protests the allegations made by several parliamentarians regarding money that the government reportedly gave to numerous senators and deputies in order to disrupt the convening of the National Assembly on 18 March. The government says that it would see itself as acting unethically were it thoughtlessly to use the country's slim resources in these times of austerity while there are so many urgent and pressing needs to satisfy in a nation faced with the damages caused by an unjust and criminal embargo. While urging those parliamentarians to control themselves, the government invites them to search in dignity and peace for the solutions to a crisis that has lasted too long.

El Salvador

FMLN Leader on Implementation of Peace Accords

PA2603025292 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Report by Enrique Lemus]

[Text] In its ordinary meeting of 25 March, the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace, Copaz, discussed the schedule for the implementation of the peace accords.

Roberto Roca, FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] representative at Copaz, stated that the government has not fully complied with the requirement to concentrate the Armed Forces in sites established by the agreements. He explained that the Treasury Police and the National Guard would remain in their positions. He added that the aforementioned corps should be gathered in the sites established by the agreements.

The FMLN leader said some success has been made in the peace process:

[Begin Roca recording] No clashes have been reported between the parties. This is important because as you all know, the cease-fire agreements have been signed in other countries have been rapidly violated. This is a great success of the process.

I must also refer to the concerns we have. For instance, we are concerned about the continuing land issue problem, even after a commitment was made to seek a negotiated solution during Goulding's visit. The other point that concerns us is that no steps have been taken to correct the problem of the National Guard and the Treasury Police.

We believe the concentration of our forces must be in line with the concentration of the Armed Forces. We are demanding that the National Guard and Treasury Police units be concentrated in Army sites. The government should not try to trick us by stating the aforementioned institutions have been incorporated into the Army, while in reality they remain unchanged. This is obviously a flagrant violation of the agreements, which we would like to discuss in-depth. [end recording]

Concerning the land problem, the FMLN leader said that in meetings attended by UN Under Secretary General Dr. Marrack Goulding, some agreements were reached with the government. Roberto Roca refused to comment on the new agreement with the government to overcome the land problem. He said the FMLN is waiting until the end of the month, which is the deadline established by the government to comply with the commitments.

[Begin Roca recording] Indeed, an agreement exists. On our part, the right thing to do now is to wait for the implementation of the agreement. In this regard, we made some commitments to handle this information with discretion. This was done to give the government an opportunity to execute the agreement. Obviously, after the deadline expires, we will applaud the government if it fulfilled the agreement, and if not, we will denounce it. For the time being, I would rather not comment any further. [end recording]

The FMLN representative stressed that the agreements clearly demand that both parties comply with the agreements reached. On 25 March, Copaz members analyzed the fifth point of the agenda established on 6 March, which deals with compliance with the agreements. The agreements establish that, as of 25 March, 58 of the 118 points agreed upon should have been executed.

PRS-ERP Political Assembly Results Reported

PA2603032392 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 24 Mar 92 p 4

[Text] The results of the first assembly of the Salvadoran Revolutionary Party (PRS) and the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP) were disclosed on 23 March by its leaders. The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) was reconfirmed as "the historical representation of Salvadoran revolutionaries," and a commitment was made to foster its change into a democratic party.

As a result of the peace agreements signed in Mexico by the Salvadoran Government and the guerrillas on 16 January, a process of political and economic change was initiated in El Salvador in which the political reconversion of the FMLN and the end of its military structure was established within a time frame that ends on 31 October.

The meeting held in Perquin last week assembled, for the first time and in times of peace, 155 PRS-ERP activists. Among them were military, political, and financial leaders; as well as representatives from abroad, from the medical, media, and special works sectors. The assembly issued a communique by the rebels.

'Political Amnesty' Sought for Accused Rebels

PA2603013992 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 24 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] The defense of the two former Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front fighters accused of killing two U.S. military advisers have considered the possibility of a political amnesty.

Omar Pastore said: "The incident took place within a war situation, and the guerrillas were aiming at the enemy to defend themselves."

Last week, the defense lawyer of the military officers involved in the murder of the Jesuit priests also considered the possibility that Colonel Guillermo Alfredo Benavides and Lieutenant Yusshy Rene Mendoza Vallecillos could benefit by a general amnesty, in a period no longer than one year.

The military officers in the Jesuit case were already found guilty by a jury and sentenced to jail by Fourth

Penal Court Judge Ricardo Zamora. Nevertheless, their defense insists they are innocent, and there is no evidence against them.

Meanwhile, the Salvadoran justice authorities stressed that "under no circumstances will those responsible for the death of the two U.S. nationals be extradited to the United States. They are Salvadorans and, as such, the accused have the right to be tried under Salvadoran law."

Miranda Sentence Called 'Act of Bad Faith'

PA2503225092 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] We heard on 24 March about an act of bad faith by the Salvadoran judicial system and government officials. They sentenced young Jorge Alberto Miranda to a 30-year prison term after charging him with the murder of Herbert Anaya Sanabria, a member of the nongovernment Human Rights Commission of El Salvador [CDHES]. The murder took place in October 1987. Everyone knows that Herbert Anaya was murdered by the death squads.

By condemning young Jorge Alberto Miranda, the justice system not only commits a serious injustice but commits a historic mistake. These are supposedly new times because the country's justice system has been reformed, the office of the human rights prosecutor has been created, and there is a new amnesty law.

The Farabundo National Liberation Front showed its willingness to create an atmosphere of reconciliation and surrendered two of its former fighters because of their involvement in the death of two U.S. advisers. In these new times, however, it is necessary that we all contribute to the changes—from members of the military to government officials and government institutions—no one is exempted.

To this end, such an important institution as the judicial system should be capable of adjusting to the new realities that present themselves, especially to recognize its past mistakes. In the case of Miranda, who was unfairly charged with the murder of CDHES Coordinator Herbert Anaya Sanabria, the judicial system had the opportunity to make corrections. Legally speaking, Jorge Miranda should be free right now. From the very beginning, his case was full of irregularities and illegal actions. In fact, the public hearing itself was a flagrant violation of all legal procedures. Furthermore, the case should have received the benefit of the so-called national reconciliation or amnesty law, because it is a political case.

The judicial authorities have refused to free Jorge Miranda under this law by arguing that the Truth Commission will examine the case. If this is so, why has the case been expedited and Jorge Miranda sentenced before the Truth Commission has been able to convene and decide the case?

The decision to sentence Jorge Miranda to 30 years is an act of very bad faith by the judicial authorities and their superiors in government. This type of act does not inspire any confidence in the improvement of the Salvadoran justice system. Instead of taking advantage of the time to withdraw the charge, the path toward democracy and peace has taken a step backward.

Guatemala

* Reportage on 20 Feb-1 Mar Guerrilla Activities

92P40146A

[Editorial Report] Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish on 21 February carries 2 articles on page 2 and 1 article on pages 3 and 77 on guerrilla and counterguerrilla activities. A 450-word article on page 2 reports one guerrilla killed and three civilians wounded by shrapnel in fighting between Army and URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] forces on 20 February in the town of San Felipe, Retalhuleu. At 0600, URNG guerrillas occupied the town, seized the National Police station, and held a town meeting until Army units entered the town and drove the guerrillas towards the mountainous area located near Samala River, killing one guerrilla. A 300-word article on page 2 reports that Minister of Defense Jose Domingo Garcia Samayoa on 20 February confirmed that army forces had located a guerrilla camp near Patulul, Suchitepequez, and killed four more guerrillas including one known as "Sublieutenant Guillermo," after the group had been driven from the town of San Felipe. A 650-word article on pages 3 and 17 reports three guerrillas killed, including a woman known only as "Yolanda," and four soldiers wounded in fighting between Army forces and members of the "Javier Tambriz" along Jaja creek, which flows into the Coyolatio River, near the country's southern coast. The group consisted of members of the Poor Peoples Guerrilla Army (EGP), the Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms (ORPA), and the Rebel Armed Forces (FAR), all of which are included in the URNG. Weapons, grenades, and explosives abandoned by the guerrillas were seized.

Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish reports on 21 February on page 6 that the Department of Information of the Army (DIDE) had announced that the town of San Felipe, Retalhuleu, was the fourth town occupied by guerrillas that week, and that the towns of El Asintal, in Retalhuleu, Genova, in Quetzaltenango, and Flores, in Costa Cuca, had been occupied earlier and similar town meetings held.

Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish reports on 23 February on page 4 that eight campesino families were kidnapped on 16 February from the town of El Pino, Chajul, Quiche, by uniformed men presumed to be guerrillas. DIDE

reports that the forces broke into the houses and stole money, clothing, kitchen ware, farming tools, and domestic animals. One of the kidnapped persons escaped on 18 February and reported the incident.

Guatemala City EL GRAFICO reports on 29 February on page 10 that Defense Minister Garcia Samayoa reported fighting in Colomba, Quetzaltenango, between an army patrol and a "subversive group" in which one guerrilla was killed. The minister said that guerrillas in the Costa Cuca area of Quetzaltenango prey upon small towns in the area that have no military or police forces.

Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO reports on 2 March on page 6 that fighting that had begun on 28 February between Army forces and URNG guerrilla groups in the Colomba area of Costa Cuca, Quetzaltenango Department, continued as of 1 March, according to a report received from DIDE. Two guerrillas were killed on 29 February and the bodies of three more guerrillas were found on 1 March in the mountainous area of Colomba. Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish on 3 March provides further reportage on page 3 that two soldiers were killed in this fighting, and that one of the guerrillas killed bore a student identification card from the Autonomous University of Chiapas, Mexico, which exemplified the international support the guerrillas received. Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE on 4 March reports on page 3 that Defense Minister Garcia Samayoa identified the bearer of the Chiapas University student identification card as guerrilla "comandante" Ramon de la Mora, who worked as a radio operator for the ORPA's "Luis Ixmata" cell and had been sent "to perpetrate acts of terrorism against the Guatemalan people." The minister said that Army reports revealed the presence of mercenaries among the different guerrilla groups active in Guatemala.

Correction to Bank Official on Economy

PA2503133692

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Bank Official on Economy, Ministers' Meeting," published in the 25 March Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 16:

Column one, fifth paragraph, first sentence make read: [Text] Federico Linares Martinez, president of...(correcting name)

Nicaragua

Hurtado Views 'National Situation,' Disarmament

PA2603121092 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 25 Mar 92 p 5

[Article by Marcio Vargas]

[Text] Approximately 300 recontras and a "much smaller" number of recompas are the "remainder" of the rebel forces throughout the country, Government Minister Carlos Hurtado stated on 24 March at the end of a news conference. Hurtado called a news conference to discuss "the national situation."

"Only El Guapote and other recontras are still out there, and we are already working on them," Hurtado explained, using a strange military jargon. He spoke this way to clarify that the insurgents who still refuse to lay down their weapons are considered outlaws and, as such, are persecuted by the authorities.

Regarding the Yatama Indians on the Atlantic Coast, the government minister announced that the first 90 men would disarm themselves on 25 March. He added that 40 of the demobilized Indians will join the Special Disarmament Brigade (BED) and the other 50 will join the police of the Autonomous North Atlantic Region.

Hurtado said that the national disarmament has entered a "third phase," which deals with the confiscation of weapons from the hands of "unorganized" civilians. On this note, he said authorities have estimated that approximately 80,000 rifles will have to be confiscated. To implement this "phase," the government has planned to offer "incentives," such as construction materials and sheets of zinc, in exchange for weapons.

In response to reporters' questions, Hurtado revealed that the police and army are currently implementing "joint plans," both in Managua and outside the capital, to confront any "situation that may arise," in addition to disarming people.

He announced that a joint EPS-police program will be implemented (he did not say when) to set up road blocks on the country's roads, not only to search for weapons but also "for other" unspecified "purposes." Hurtado added: "It is a wide-ranging cooperation between the two institutions, as it should be."

Concerning the main subject of the news conference, which took place on the fifth floor of the Government Ministry building, Hurtado—who was accompanied by Police Chief Rene Vivas and Deputy Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta—gave a long speech on the national "consensus" against violence. He said the labor conflicts the government is facing these days are "sectarian and specific," adding that they do not represent the beginning of a "social outbreak."

Hurtado announced the end of the strike at the Central Bank. He also stated that a solution to the strike of the sugar industry workers is "about to be reached." He said the government is not trying to "break" the agreements signed with workers.

"If the government signs, it fulfills," he explained. However, he recognized that some times "there are obstacles, such as problems of implementation."

Hurtado, Mendieta, and Vivas reiterated their message that the situation of the country is under absolute control and they denied the possibility of an "outbreak" or "national crisis" in Nicaragua.

Hurtado explained that the police had decided not to break up the demonstration at Bolivar Avenue, where hundreds of sugar industry workers have remained since 18 March, because "this government is not used to repressing people for the sake of repression."

"It is true the economic situation is extremely difficult, but there is no social crisis about to break out," Hurtado concluded with his unusual and mysterious smile.

Bank, Sugar Refinery Workers Strike Resolved

PA2503215392 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] The strike situation has been resolved. All the strikers who were at the National Sugar Commission on 24 March got into their trucks and went back to the sugar refineries. In addition, other strikers who were in front of the Presidential Palace on Bolivar Avenue departed peacefully until the area was cleared.

Apparently, the message delivered by Government Minister Carlos Hurtado on 24 March seemed to have had an effect on the strikers. The government announced it would impose constitutional order to ensure stability within the entire country.

At the Central Bank of Nicaragua, the employees were working as usual. The number of strikers is becoming smaller all the time, as more employees return to work.

Meanwhile, the Nicaraguan Government denied on 24 March that there is a national crisis. At the same time, the government announced it had reached preliminary agreements with the sugar refinery workers who had been on strike for nine days and had staged disturbances in front of the Presidential Palace.

Government Minister Carlos Hurtado, who is President Violeta Chamorro's delegate, announced the results of the negotiations with the employees of the Central Bank and the sugar refinery workers on efforts to restore order in the country. Minister Hurtado said Nicaragua is not about to fall apart. He said despite the economic crisis, the country is not on the verge of a social explosion.

During a news conference, Deputy Government Alfredo Mendieta said the Central Bank workers' strike that began 14 days ago ended on 24 March after definitive agreements were reached. The negotiations between a government delegation and the Federation of Sugar Refinery Workers continue. Preliminary agreements were reached on 24 March on the privatization of the production centers.

The conflict at the Central Bank is over, and the labor unions are preparing a report they will send to the National Assembly with evidence of the abuses and corruption committed by some officials. After highlighting the solidarity and unity of the Central Bank workers, Mario Rostran, secretary general of the Federation of Bank Employees, said the reinstatement of over 30 employees who had been dismissed is one of the most important agreements. The negotiations continue, and it was decided that a commission from the unions will be alert to any evidence of corruption.

Withdrawal of Suit Against Honduras Reported

PA2503224992 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government will withdraw a suit filed in 1986 against the Honduran Government at the International Court of Justice at the Hague. The suit was filed against Honduras because it allowed the armed troops that were attacking the former Nicaraguan Army to be stationed in Honduran territory. On 24 March, Colonel Mario Maldonado, Honduran ambassador to Nicaragua, delivered a letter to Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas. The letter was from former President Daniel Ortega Saavedra, and it stated the Sandinist National Liberation Front's intention to withdraw the suit. This had been agreed upon in 1989 between the then presidents, Daniel Ortega for Nicaragua and Jose Azcona Hoyos for Honduras.

Panama

PDC Legislator Files Suit Against Comptroller

PA2603014092 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Report by Jose Miguel Guerra in Panama City]

[Text] A criminal lawsuit was filed against Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles on 25 March by PDC [Christian Democratic Party] Legislator Milton Henriquez, chairman of the Legislative Assembly Budget Commission.

A news conference was held at the Budget Commission office. Legislator Henriquez was accompanied by all the PDC legislative faction members. Henriquez presented several documents, including facsimiles and copies of checks that the legislator said represent proof of Comptroller General Carles' embezzlement and abuse of authority.

Following the news conference, Henriquez and his delegation went to the Attorney General's Office, where they gave the attorney general the documents against Comptroller General Carles and requested an investigation into the crimes he may have committed. They also requested that the comptroller general be removed from his post while the investigation is conducted.

[Begin Henriquez recording] We have presented not only Carles' confessions to the Budget Commission, duly registered in minutes and recordings, but also a letter he sent trying to explain things—he confessed that he committed abuse. And, most importantly, we obtained the facsimiles of each one of the checks he issued. These checks total $696,606.

We must add that some checks are repeated, meaning the same number with different dates and different

amounts, and some checks do not appear in the National Bank's records. These things must be investigated by the Attorney General's Office. [end recording]

Comptroller General Carles said Legislator Henriquez' charges are the result of misinformation or are a deliberate attempt to disavow what happened.

[Begin Carles recording] He asked me months ago about the status of an account known as the allotments account at the Comptroller General's Office. This involves money from the public employees' allotment program to pay financial organizations. I sent him the complete information, but he is restless and worried because the Comptroller General's Office is currently intervening in two cases against First Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon. One case involves charges for an unconstitutional collection of salaries he has not earned, and the other involves embezzlement charges filed at the Attorney General's Office against Ricardo Arias Calderon for the collection of salaries without fulfilling his job, meaning without working. This worries the PDC members, and they are now inventing charges. [end recording]

Nevertheless, Legislator Henriquez' views on the case are quite clear.

[Begin recording] [Henriquez] Professor Ruben Dario Carles has no other choice but to resign—if he has any decency left—and allow an honest man to assume the role of comptroller general of the Republic and carry out the other investigations to purge this country once and for all.

[Guerra] Would you be willing to leave the job and allow an investigation?

[Carles] Due to a lawsuit? I have not heard that Ricardo Arias Calderon has left his job due to a lawsuit. I do not think it is necessary. We are prepared to give all the necessary information and to continue to work and defend the Panamanian people's interests. [end recording]

Correction to Article Urges Talks

PA2403161992

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Article Urges Talks," published in the 24 March Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 11:

Column two, fifth paragraph, first sentence make read: Colon Province with its historic poverty and the needy situation of 40 percent of Panama's 2.5 million inhabitants should be enough...(rewording)

Argentina

New Foreign Ministry Officials Appointed

PY2503181892 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 11 Mar 92 p 15

[Summary] Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella has appointed career diplomat Gustavo Figueroa as under secretary of the Institutional Affairs and Press Department. He will work under Jorge Telerman, who is the new secretary of the Technical-Administrative and Institutional Affairs Department. The following under secretariats have now become secretariats: Worship, International Economic Relations, and General Affairs. They are headed by Angel Centeno, Alieto Guadagni, and Andres Cisneros, respectively.

Judge's Release Order for Pakistanis Suspended

PY2503183092 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Supreme Court President Ricardo Levene is investigating the attack on the Israeli Embassy. He will question the four Pakistani citizens who are still in jail.

Although the judge ordered the release of the four on 23 March, his order was suspended after chemical tests on their clothing indicated the presence of suspicious substances.

Several Bombs, Bomb Threats Reported in Capital

Bombs at Hebrew Office, Garden

PY2503180692 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Two bombs, one at the Buenos Aires Botanical Garden and the other at the Argentine Hebrew Association office, were deactivated this morning by the Federal Police Bomb Squad.

Police sources have reported that at 1100 [1400 GMT], a Bomb Squad vehicle went to the Botanical Garden after an anonymous caller reported that a bomb had been placed there. The bomb was detonated by Bomb Squad agents.

A similar case occurred at the Argentine Hebrew Association office at 680 Florida Street, in the heart of downtown Buenos Aires.

Radio America Evacuated

PY2503191292 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1849 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 March (TELAM)—Radio America, located in Buenos Aires, stopped broadcasting at about 1500 [1800 GMT] following a bomb threat to the station.

Alfredo Casado, Radio America news director, has informed TELAM that all personnel were evacuated from the station, which is located at 5600 Honduras Street.

Members of the Police Bomb Squad are checking to verify the existence of the bomb, which was reported through an anonymous phone call.

Threats to Paper, Radio Offices

PY2503205392 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] The chief of the 2d Police Precinct, (Alberto Berrier), said today that an anonymous telephone call warning of a bomb in the offices of the daily PAGINA 12 was a false bomb threat.

(Berrier) indicated that the anonymous telephone call was made at 1130 by a man who warned about the bomb. He added that the call was also received in his police precinct. (Berrier) said the unidentified man pointed out that the warning was intended to protect the daily's employees.

Two bomb threats were also made by anonymous telephone callers to Radio Provincia and administrative tower No. 2 in La Plata. The two buildings were evacuated until it was verified that there were no bombs present. The personnel of the two buildings then went back to work.

Menem 'Jumped the Gun' in Blaming Rebels

PY2503225892 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 25 Mar 92 p 11

[Text] (DYN)—President Carlos Menem yesterday publicly admitted having jumped the gun when he pointed to the carapintada rebel Army faction as a likely suspect in last week's bombing of the Israeli Embassy.

"Maybe the anger led to my rushing to conclusions," Menem said in radio statements yesterday.

"The episode was horrible, I had seen the first images on TV and when asked (about possible suspects) I answered in that way. I spoke of capintadas, Nazis, neo-Nazis and fundamentalists," said Menem.

On March 17, approximately an hour after the embassy building was levelled by a terrorist attack, Menem said "what happened in the Israeli Embassy is the result of something that was foiled on December 3, 1990," meaning the bloody rebellion led by cashiered Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin. "They are Argentine Nazis who find themselves being hounded," he added.

Later that same day, on a live TV broadcast, Menem was consulted about the role of carapintadas in the attack. "I guess so, based on all of the information I receive. I even think that from some place of detention these savages have continued to mobilize," he answered.

Menem's statements were harshly rebuked by Seineldin and former rebel turned politician Aldo Rico. But the President, unfazed, said yesterday: "if those who speak badly of me knew what I think of them ... the situation would turn even worse."

State Issues Bonds for Repaying Debts

PY2503165392 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 18 Mar 92 p 23

[Text] In compliance with Law No. 23982 for consolidation of the domestic debt, which was supplemented by executive branch Decree No. 2140/91 and resolution No. 261/92 of the Economy Ministry, the Central Bank yesterday authorized the issuance of consolidation bonds with a 16-year maturity term, dollar-denominated consolidation bonds with a 16-year maturity term, and peso and dollar-denominated bonds for consolidation of debts owed to the social security system with a 10-year maturity term. To this effect, the bank issued resolution No. A-1938, which referred to notice Tinac 1-217.

The issuance date of the peso-denominated bonds of the first series will be 1 April 1991 [year as published], their maturity term will be 16 years, and amortization will be in 120 monthly installments. Each one of the first 119 installments will be equivalent to 0.84 percent of the bond value—the last installment will be equivalent to 0.04 percent of the bond value—plus interest that has been capitalized during the first 72 months. That means that the first amortization will be made in six years, on 1 May 1997.

Interest will be equivalent to that paid on common savings accounts, which are published daily by the Central Bank. A monthly rate of 1.3605 percent will be in force during the first period. Interest will be capitalized monthly during the first 72 months and will be paid along with the amortization installments.

Dollar-Denominated Bonds

The Central Bank also issued the first series of dollar-denominated bonds, with the same date of issuance and with 16-year maturity terms. The other bond terms are similar to those of the previous type of bond, except for the fact that they will earn the LIBOR [London interbank offered rate] interest paid on 30-day Eurodollar deposits.

The amounts of the bond issuance will be established for both bonds as soon as the overdue debt is estimated and based on the creditors' decision to cash the bonds in pesos or dollars.

Social Security Bonds

The Central Bank also issued peso-denominated bonds for consolidation of social security debts with a 10-year maturity term. They will be amortized in 48 monthly installments. The first 47 installments will be equivalent to 2.08 percent of the bond value—the last one will be equivalent to 2.24 percent of the bond value—plus interest that has been capitalized during the first 72 months. The first amortization will be paid on 1 May 1997. The interest will be that paid on common savings accounts.

The dollar-denominated social security consolidation bonds will be similar, but they will earn the LIBOR rate. Bond issuance will amount to $7 billion. It is not yet known, however, how this amount will be divided between pesos and dollars. In connection with the 16-year-term consolidation bonds, it should be added that in addition to repaying the debts that the state owes its suppliers, they will be used for repaying accumulated fiscal credits.

Bolivia

Interior Minister Rules Out State of Siege

PY2503131892 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra Bruno has clearly stated that a measure like the state of siege cannot be considered because, under the Bolivian Constitution, such an extreme measure is only taken when the country is affected by social upheaval or an international war.

[Begin Saavedra recording] We believe that no small sector, no group of students, will jeopardize state security.

I repeat: The Bolivian Constitution establishes that the state of siege can only be implemented in case of international war or social upheaval.

Through this agreement with the university, I believe we have solved one of the most troublesome conflicts.

I do not think we can talk about social upheaval, and we can rule out the possibility of war. The prefects of the capitals of our country's departments say there is absolute normalcy in all regions.

There is one point that must still be resolved, a point that the planning minister is negotiating with the Oruro University. We believe if we can solve that problem within the next few hours, the situation will be resolved.

Of course, the teachers issue must still be resolved. That is the last social sector still negotiating.

There is no point in implementing a state of siege when the economy continues to operate, when our country's economic indexes remain unchanged, or when continued improvements are being registered like the time deposits in the banking system and the system of loans to the productive sector.

We can see that even during these days of conflict, the economy has not stopped for a single day; the banking sector has not stopped; the transportation sector has not stopped; the commercial sector has not stopped; and industries have not stopped, not even here in La Paz.

One group has caused traffic jams, preventing those citizens who want and must go to work from arriving on time. Undoubtedly, the citizenry totally rejects this attitude, which we will also gradually control. [end recording]

Government Begins Offensive Against EGTK

PY2503162592 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 11 Mar 92 p 7

[Text] On 9 March the government began a total offensive against the illegal Tupac Katari Guerrilla Army (EGTK). After intensive interrogations of detainees from the organization, the latest police operations in the Miraflores and Villa San Antonio zones have been decisive in dismantling some EGTK cells. The government believes it has struck a hard blow against the EGTK because a top leader is reportedly among those who were recently detained.

"It is premature to say the EGTK no longer exists," Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra said yesterday in evaluating the antisubversive police action.

He said the Interior Ministry is determined to establish the social basis of the EGTK, because all the members detained thus far have been from the middle class, not peasants.

According to Saavedra, his ministry wants to detect the political or racial factors behind the EGTK, "because they use the peasants' terms and demands as a pretext to defend the interests of those middle-class people."

Preliminary Interior Ministry reports state that the EGTK has no social support among the peasants, and some of its active members are university students.

The interior minister considered it very premature to say the EGTK no longer exists because some preliminary investigations are still under way to determine whether the group has been totally dismantled.

The minister ruled out the possibility that nongovernmental organizations may be financing that type of group for the sole reason that 14,000 bolivianos were taken away by an official linked to the EGTK.

He said that those resources may be, in fact, intended for those groups, but the nongovernmental organizations have no responsibility whatsoever in the diversion of those resources.

Recalling the operation carried out yesterday afternoon, he said that a man and a woman were arrested and identified as top leaders of the guerrilla organization.

He said that no one was wounded, despite gunshots fired by an EGTK member when he realized that he would be captured.

Minister Saavedra announced another news conference today to give further details on the operations.

Government, University Reach Agreement

PY2503135292 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] University mobilizations ended in La Paz after an agreement was signed on 24 March between university authorities and government representatives. That information was provided by Jose Mendoza Quiroga, dean of the College of Fine Arts and a member of the University Council.

[Begin Mendoza recording] The University Council has just lifted its emergency session, which began this morning. During the four-hour meeting, the Council decided to accept the latest document that was negotiated on 24 March between the UMSA [San Andres University] negotiating committee and the economic team.

The committee is currently drafting a report for the strikers [words indistinct] so this document can be approved.

We believe that with this document we have achieved 41.7 million [currency not specified] and some collateral measures that will benefit the university.

The [name indistinct] Council, which is the highest government level, [words indistinct] this agreement and the pickets are now being asked to lift their hunger strike. [end recording]

Within this framework, the teachers and the high school students are now on their own. They continue with their mobilizations and hunger strikes.

The urban teachers of La Paz took to the streets to reject the 17-percent salary increase.

[Begin recording with shouts and chants] [Unidentified speaker] The 17 percent absolutely does not solve our problems. [end recording]

(Rene Parto), a La Paz union leader, has indicated that any improvement in the government's proposal must be discussed at the grass roots level.

[Begin recording] We are asking the confederation to consult the people at the grass roots level to see if there is any modification to this objective. If they persist in modifying the objectives that have been outlined, then treachery will obviously have been committed. [end recording]

Corruption Reported in National Coca Board

PY2403144292 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Relay from Cochabamba by Mario Avalos]

[Text] Reports received from the vast tropical region of the Chapare indicate that corruption prevails within the National Coca Directorate. We were told by phone that over the past few days several trucks loaded with coca

leaves have been seized, but these leaves have been resold elsewhere. What is the National Coca Directorate doing? Is it controlling or negotiating coca production? That is the question being asked by inhabitants of the Chapare tropical region.

The Coca Eradication Directorate [Direco] is doing a tremendous job in that region in its efforts to reduce coca plantations through negotiations with the peasants.

Today the Direco is without a leader following the resignation of its chairman a few days ago. For this reason, and in the search for greater effectiveness in the coca reduction effort, the people here are asking for the designation of a competent authority and for further talks with the peasants.

Continuous rain has thus far prevented Direco from carrying out its work. It is still raining in the Chapare region.

Brazil

Collor, Nicaragua's Chamorro Sign Communique

PA2503223092 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] The presidents of Nicaragua and Brazil on 24 March signed a joint communique that emphasizes the special economic situation in Nicaragua. The presidents urged the international community to provide greater support for the social programs and development plans being promoted by the Nicaraguan Government.

The communique voices the Brazilian Government's goals to strengthen the economic and commercial ties between the two countries. To that effect, the two presidents congratulated each other on the agreements reached on technical assistance in the fields of agriculture, telecommunications, etc. They also praised the agreements reached on Nicaragua's debt to Brazil.

The Brazilian president voiced his firm support for the Nicaraguan democratic process. He also emphasized the willingness of President Chamorro's government to achieve reconciliation and promote dialogue.

Chamorro Ends Visit

PY2503140892 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro today ends her visit to Brazil and leaves for Buenos Aires. In a news conference, Chamorro said she was very satisfied with the agreement reached with the Brazilian Government regarding the Nicaraguan $81-million debt.

Chamorro said she envies the Brazilian economic and social situation, adding that she is impressed with President Collor's concern for children.

She made a positive assessment of her visit to Brazil, during which the two countries signed several agreements in the fields of telecommunications, agriculture, cattle-raising, and culture.

Gallup Poll Shows Collor's Popularity Falling

PY2503145292 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Mar 92 p 10

[Summary] According to a Gallup poll, President Fernando Collor's administration has the support of only 16.3 percent of the population, compared to 69 percent when he took charge of the government. The poll shows that 46.7 percent of the population labeled the Collor administration as poor; 18.1 percent as bad.

Justice Minister Interviewed on Corruption

PY2503180192 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Mar 92 Political Section p 5

[Interview with Justice Minister Jarbas Passarinho by O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO reporter Eliane Cantanhede and ESTADO agency reporter Carmem Kozak; place and date not given]

[Text] [Kozak] Why has the government not been investigating the charges of irregularities?

[Passarinho] I am absolutely sure that when the case is over—after the police inquest, the attorney general's investigation, and the Commission for Congressional Investigation studies—no good and unbiased judge will be able to charge me or General Agenor with omission.

[Cantanhede] Have the two of you not been aware of the charges against former Minister Magri since November?

[Passarinho] The evidence that finally made it necessary to investigate the charges was not presented to Gen. Agenor, and, in my case, I did not even know the details of the charges.

[Cantanhede] Why do charges presented to the government only become scandals through other channels?

[Passarinho] Charges must be presented to the Justice Ministry or to any other specific ministry. Charges such as those being presented here and there must be conveyed to the Attorney General's Office or the nearest police precinct. Just because the Federal Police are under the Justice Ministry, it is presumed that I am responsible for this sort of thing. Anyone who checks on the constitutional responsibilities of the Federal Police will find out that things are not so.

[Cantanhede] Why did Gen. Agenor report the charges to you? Does he not know the Constitution?

[Passarinho] No, that is not the case. I believe he presented them to me for another reason. As everyone knows, the general appointed this man (Volnei Avila) to

supervise the Welfare Institute. The general was convinced that he was "a great solution" to the welfare sector's corruption problems...

[Cantanhede] One more case of government misinformation, Mr. Minister?

[Passarinho] Yes, but no one is perfect. When he talked to us, Mr. Volnei said he had evidence. He even told Colonel Roberto Pimenta (Gen. Agenor's adviser) that the evidence was against Magri. I had never heard that. The general said Avila had charges against "everything and everyone" and that he wanted both of us to listen to the evidence, which was the cassette.

[Cantanhede] Why did you discuss the issue and not take a stand regarding it?

[Passarinho] The heads of our two staffs even scheduled a date for us to listen to the charges. The meeting would have been on 16 January, but it did not take place because Magri and Margarida Procopio were replaced on 17 March. We only discussed the issue again on 24 January, when Gen. Agenor told me: "Now that Magri has been replaced, we should submit the case to his successor, Reynhold Stephanes."

[Cantanhede] Now there are also charges about the allocation of severance pay funds [FGTS] to projects being built in Acre State. Why has nothing been done about it?

[Passarinho] That is not so. I have all the documents. The deputy (Celia Mendes of the Acre Social Democratic Party, who presented the charges) is a friend of mine. She is the daughter of a close friend and married to a former deputy (Narciso Mendes), who owns a construction company (Mendes Carlos) that was not preselected for the bidding. On 27 September, she brought me a document mentioning a "$120 million bidding, the requirements of which were absurd and discriminatory." The document consisted only of criticism of the bidding process.

[Cantanhede] Did she speak about overbilling or FGTS?

[Passarinho] Not at any time. It was not a report; it was a complaint. She did not provide any documents. Now we are wasting precious time to prove we are still virgins. On 16 October, I sent a memo describing the situation to Minister Margarida Procopio. On the 31st, she answered that all actions on bidding proceedings, contracting, and payment to companies were in the charge of Acre State from the moment the Federal Savings Bank signed a contract with the state, and that state autonomy was established by the Constitution. I sent copies of all documents to the deputy.

[Cantanhede] Do we not have a more efficient supervision process?

[Passarinho] No. What is going to become of us if we get involved in supervision? Are we going to become a state fraud investigation ministry? Are we going to hire spies and detectives? What kind of responsibility do they want to assign me? The Constitution says that Federal Police have five responsibilities. In the case of a federal crime, the Federal Police act independently, but these problems do not have anything to do with federal crimes.

[Cantanhede] Is it considered acceptable to report crimes in public office?

[Passarinho] No, but people are used to passing the information to newspapers.

[Cantanhede] Is that not the best way to start a true investigation?

[Passarinho] Exactly. That is why a free press is important. But I am concerned about hasty reporting. They are trying to say that I was negligent. Negligence, violation of the law, moved by personal interests? What interests could I have? Defend Magri on behalf of the government? Defend the governor because I am from Acre?

[Cantanhede] But must you not defend the government?

[Passarinho] Yes I must. That is why I check into everything that comes to my desk, except anonymous letters.

[Cantanhede] How do you prevent a minister from stealing?

[Passarinho] I do not know. I cannot prevent it; I do not have the tools to do it. But we can uncover him.

[Cantanhede] How do you uncover him?

[Passarinho] I do not know how to answer that. How am I going to supervise a minister who is stealing? All ministers must present their accounts to the National Accounting Office. The Accounting Office approves or rejects ministers' accountings. But then you will say: "That is the formula." But it is just a formula.

[Cantanhede] In your opinion, does society need a "Volnei?"

[Passarinho] The Volneis are necessary. I do not know why, but there is no other way.

[Cantanhede] Why do we have so many scandals today?

[Passarinho] There are two possibilities: The first is that corruption was not so rampant before. The second is that we had the same corruption, but it went unreported because of censure. I believe both are true. Why did we not have reports on corruption during the Geisel government, when censure ended? Because we did not have that eagerness to report on ministers or the president of the Republic.

* Rezek Discusses Trade Relations With Tunisia

92AF0532Z Tunis LE TEMPS in French
30 Jan 92 pp 3-5

[Interview with Francisco Rezek, Brazilian foreign affairs minister, by Mouldi M'Barek in Tunis; date not

given: "The Debt Issue Should Be Settled Though a Political Approach"—first paragraph is LE TEMPS introduction]

[Text] The Brazilian minister of foreign relations, Mr. Francisco Rezek, is on an official visit to our country. In this exclusive interview with LE TEMPS, Mr. Francisco Rezek discusses Tunisian-Brazilian cooperation, the debt issue, the Brazilian community of Arab origin, Latin America as it faces the new world order, Middle-East peace negotiations, and several other Brazilian and international issues. Mr. Rezek is of Arab origin.

[M'Barek] Mr. Minister, how would you assess Tunisian-Brazilian cooperation, and how do you view the prospects for our two countries?

[Rezek] As you know, our political relations are excellent and they have not been marred by anything. But you also know that our two countries are aware that their economic relations are modest, and now intend to seize every opportunity for cooperation.

To increase trade between our two countries, we should take measures of a nature to intensify it. The Tunisian party should try to identify what goods or services it could sell in Brazil because, for the time being, our trade is in Brazil's favor.

The volume of trade between our two countries does not exceed 30 million dinars per year. Therefore, we should intensify our technological, scientific, touristic, and cultural exchanges.

[M'Barek] You came with a businessmen delegation. In your opinion, what are the products that Tunisia could sell to Brazil, and what are the opportunities it offers to Brazilian businessmen?

[Rezek] Currently, phosphates are Tunisia's leading export to Brazil.

However, exports could be diversified; there are other staple and manufactured products that the Brazilian commercial and industrial sector might purchase.

Besides, even for phosphates, the current figure could be increased; just imagine how important agriculture is in a country with an area of 8,512,000 km^2 and 150 million people. Our needs are huge. Tunisia can sell far more to Brazil.

[M'Barek] The question of the Brazilian debt seems to worry some observers. How do people in Brazil react to the problem?

[Rezek] It is, in fact, the largest foreign debt for a developing country. It has now reached a little over $100 billion. But it remains in proportion with Brazilian economy.

Our gross national product exceeds $300 billion. But the question of the Brazilian debt remains one of the government's main concerns.

We are currently negotiating the settlement of the debt service for the forthcoming months.

Private and public creditors are now confident that the government is determined to solve the question.

[M'Barek] President Ben Ali suggested to recycle the debt, i.e., to reinvest the amounts allocated to repay the debt in mutually profitable projects, in the country concerned. What is Brazil's position?

[Rezek] We have always thought that the foreign debt of developing countries deserved political analysis.

This question should not be viewed solely from the economic or financial angle.

Creditor countries should not overlook the importance of the political factor in finding suitable solutions to the debt question.

Besides, this opinion is shared by Mr. Boutros Ghali, the UN general secretary.

It is urgent to help promote development in debtor countries, so that people in the South will not be tempted to migrate permanently to the North. Besides, such a migration will cost more to the North, which could stop it only by erecting another Wall, similar to the one that was destroyed just a few months ago and brings back sad memories. Are we going to see another Wall between the North and the South!?

The debt problem must be settled through a political approach.

We are not asking for charity. We want to prevent this migration to the North which, in several European countries, is a source of discrimination and feelings that are quite reprehensible and sometimes remind us of the 1930's.

[M'Barek] The best informed among observers predicted a formidable economic boom in Brazil, but the takeoff was delayed. In your opinion, what was the cause for the delay?

[Rezek] It is due to the unfortunate conjunction of two factors:

—We contracted too many debts; and

—the Brazilian legal order, which was protectionist, not modern, and marked by nationalism, showed a lack of intelligence.

We are now determined to settle the debt service, and we are modernizing our laws to attract investors. Brazil is now on the right track. The Brazilian boom will occur soon and it will be commensurate to the size of the Brazilian economy.

[M'Barek] Democracy and development are closely bound. How will you reconcile economic demands and democracy in a developing country?

[Rezek] Democracy requires openness. The government must explain its theories. For instance, there are those in

Congress (the Brazilian parliament) who still support the ultranationalist and protectionist theories that have already been proved wrong. We must convince these people, since we are in a democracy. This requires efforts and reasoning.

At present, people in Latin America realize that democracy is a sound base for any durable economic achievement.

What you are doing here, we are doing over there.

[M'Barek] Brazil has a large Arab community. Could you give us more details on the size, living conditions, and sectors of activities of this community?

[Rezek] Statistical estimates show that Brazil now counts nearly 150,000 Arabs who came from Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, Syria, and a few Maghreb countries.

People of Arab origin, exclusively Arab origin I would say, like myself, i.e., with both parents of entirely Arab origin, number about 2.5 million.

But if you consider the entire Arab community, i.e., including individuals born of mixed marriages, the figure is close to 8 million.

Whereas Brazilians of German origin are mostly concentrated in southern states, the Italians in Sao Paulo, the Ukrainians in the state of Parana, Arabs on the other hand are distributed throughout Brazil. Even in the Amazon you may find a few families of Arab origin.

Their professional diversification is also remarkable. At first, they were traders; then they went into industry.

Starting in 1930-1940, they formed large industrial groups and, little by little, they asserted themselves in other professions, such as medicine, technology.

In Brazil, we have what we call "superstars" of medicine who are of Arab origin.

Brazilians of Arab origin hold key positions in the political class and even in the Church. They are numerous in the Brazilian parliament, which counts tens of senators and deputies of Arab origin.

Brazilian of Arab origin also hold important positions in the Brazilian Supreme Court, which is small in number but whose actual powers are huge.

They also hold government positions; they have held the Ministries of Justice, Finance, etc.; and as for me, I am the first one to be in charge of the Ministry of Foreign Relations.

[M'Barek] What are Brazil's relations with Arab countries, in particular the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] and the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council]?

[Rezek] We have excellent political relations with Arab countries.

Our relations have always been cloudless.

But the time has come to give our relations an economic expression.

You know that I was in Morocco just before coming to Tunisia. Traveling with me is a large delegation of businessmen who are trying to identify projects in your country.

Usually, you know, I am accompanied by diplomats, but this time a delegation of Brazilian industry's top men came with me to Tunis, to try and boost our economic relations.

Certainly, the joint Tunisian-Brazilian commission will not be set up immediately, because of certain formalities, but we are going to sign agreements that will make it possible to strengthen our cooperation.

[M'Barek] What is Brazil's point of view concerning the Middle East peace talks and the rights of the Palestinians?

[Rezek] We know that this is a problem that is hard to solve. We place much hope in these talks, which meet with difficulties every day.

The Palestinian question weighs heavily on mankind's collective conscience.

I believe that, for the time being, in addition to the efforts of the parties concerned and their neighbors and friends, the major centers of political powers on the international scene are aware of the fact that there is no longer any justification for disregarding the rights of the Palestinians.

At the United Nations, Brazil has always supported the rights of the Palestinians, and we have a PLO representation in Brasilia.

[M'Barek] There has been much talk recently about the new international order. In your opinion, what is Latin America's future in this sphere?

[Rezek] I believe that our region is one of the zones that have not been helped much by the economic rules of the game, in recent years.

Your region, the African and Asiatic continents, too, feel frustrated, and they have been denied, in this economic game, their legitimate share of their labor and their efforts.

I firmly believe in the future of the United Nations, which must now constitute a main line of international solidarity.

I believe that after the cold war there are no victors and no vanquished.

We are merely witnessing the victory of the theories of multiparty democracy as a political form of government, and the triumph of competitive economy as a way to prosperity.

It would be disastrous to believe that the Cold War ended by creating a situation where there is only one political pole. Rather, we should think that the United Nations organization is the right place to solve all problems.

The United Nations has already won strength and prestige; we must give it still more credibility, with all nations. International political opinion must be convinced that the United Nations is serving the international community rather than one country, one group of countries, or any interest.

It is at the United Nations that we shall draw the new map of international society.

[M'Barek] There has been much talk about the North-South dialogue.... What part does Brazil play in promoting this dialogue and in strengthening South-South relations as well?

[Rezek] We are enthusiastically in favor of intensifying the South-South dialogue.

We should reinforce economic complementarity among Southern countries that are separated by geography but share a common ideal.

I do believe in the South-South dialogue, which is becoming more pragmatic and less academic.

Concerning the North-South dialogue, it would be sounder and more honest to establish relations of mutual trust. We do not want the South to curse the North and vice versa.

Some countries—I am thinking mostly of some regions of black Africa—need assistance from their neighbors and other industrialized countries.

But developing countries like yours and ours do not need assistance.... All we want is for the game of international trade to be played fair and square.

We are against certain practices, such as the imposition of artificial and protectionist tariffs, for instance to protect domestic producers in the United States and in several other industrialized countries, especially in Europe.

We are against these practices, as they are detrimental to our exports.

The quality of the product should be the prevailing criteria. We demand that all should play by the rules.

[M'Barek] Mr. Minister, does Brazil feel closer to the Third World? Or does it see itself as part of the so-called Western world?

[Rezek] Our feeling is that we belong to the developing world. We should avoid these labels and cliches that were brought about by the Cold war.

At any rate, there is no longer a "second world" now that the Cold war is over; therefore the Third World should cease to exist.

We belong to a developing world faced with a social crisis that strikes at our conscience....

All citizens and all families have the right to a decent standard of living. We belong to this family of countries that believe that all citizens in the world have the right to a decent life. The countries that have not yet gained access to what they deserve must benefit from international prosperity.

This is how I see this new international order.

[M'Barek] One last question, Mr. Minister: One of the largest forests in the world, the Amazon, seems to be exposed to dangers detrimental to this formidable natural asset. What does Brazil do to protect it?

[Rezek] Since 15 March 1990, the government of President Fernando Collor has been deploying efforts without precedent in Brazilian history to protect the natives' (the Indians') environment and territory.

The Indians are nomads who need a lot of space. The government has marked out their territories and no one is allowed there, except Indians.

The (Indian) Ianomami tribe has a territory that is approximately the size of Portugal.

The present government makes sure that these Indian reservations, which are the Brazilian community's heritage, are preserved.... It is true that, in the past, some governments have tolerated some private activities to various degrees, but currently the law is strict.

Tens of heads of states and governments and hundreds of delegations will meet in Rio next June for the "International Conference on Development and the Environment." They will have a chance to visit the Amazon and they will see the pristine condition of this huge green area....

Chile

Army Releases Communique on Political Espionage

PY2503152992 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Report by Mario Contreras]

[Text] The Army today categorically rejected rumors that it has actively worked to obtain data that leaked and started what is being called political espionage. The Army also denied having handed the data to Independent Democratic Union [UDI] congressmen.

The text of the military institution's communique was read by Lieutenant Colonel Jose Garcia, head of the Communications Department. The following is the communique's complete text:

In view of the illegal activities conducted by the Investigative Police—which directly affect the security of the Army, its commander in chief, and its leadership—the Army Communications Department declares:

1. In January, the Army Intelligence Directorate received data on the surveillance of military garrisons

and tailing of officers—particularly the Army commander in chief and the Army leadership, among others—by Investigative Police.

2. In view of the seriousness of these deeds against military security, the Intelligence Directorate ordered that during their routine activities, the counterintelligence organizations investigate the situation to enable it to adopt measures to guarantee the institution's interests. It also ordered that, as soon as the investigation's results were confirmed, they be conveyed to the Army commander in chief.

[Begin Garcia recording] 3. Although the results [of the investigation] still had to be confirmed by the Intelligence Directorate, the UDI congressmen reported on the Investigative Police activities, about which the people knew nothing. [Words indistinct] including those regarding security and [passage indistinct].

4. Therefore, the Army categorically rejects the rumors about its alleged active participation in the aforementioned deeds [words indistinct], and also denies having handed the information to UDI congressmen. [end recording]

The communique also states in its fifth item that the Army supports the Intelligence Directorate actions aimed at neutralizing Investigative Police activities because they are in accordance with the directorate's duties, the normal regulations, the laws in force in the country, and the Army's doctrine.

The communique adds that the Army is concerned about the importance being given to a secondary problem, such as how the information was originated, which is diverting everyone's attention from what is really important, i.e., the spying operations, tailing of officers, and leaking of data on national and institutional matters. The unforeseeable consequences of these actions may even endanger national security.

Finally, the communique states that the Army feels entitled to file suits against those who prove responsible for the deeds meant to endanger the institution's interests.

Consortium To Take Over Argentine Power Plants

PY2503174792 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] The Chilean consortium made up of Chilgener and Chilquinta will take possession on 1 April of the two thermoelectric plants that recently were privatized in Buenos Aires. This is the largest Chilean investment made in Argentina so far, and it is the beginning of an eventual interconnection between the two countries.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Of the privatizations that have been undertaken in Argentina, this is the first one to be made in the energy sector, an attractive sector for Chilean investors who seek in Argentina a continuation of their activities in Chile.

[Chilgener General Manager Juan Antonio Guzman] Our project is to place ourselves strategically in Argentina. We believe that the enterprises that integrate in more than one country are the enterprises of the future.

[Unidentified reporter] The Puerto Nuevo and Nuevo Puerto thermoelectrical plants generate 40 percent of the electricity for Buenos Aires Province, where 13 million people live.

The plants were installed in 1928; they have a total of 1,119 workers and the machinery is 30 years old.

[Engineer Grovato, Puerto Nuevo Central chief] Privatization certainly will bring about the replacement of equipment, and the plant most probably will be expanded, which the state has not been able to do due to the lack of funds.

[Unidentified reporter] During the past two years Chilean enterprises have invested $230 million in Argentina, and this figure now has been surpassed with the investment that has been made by the Chilgener and Chilquinta consortium.

Of some $300 million, $92 million corresponds to the bid, $50 million was used to pay the debt, and the other $150 million will be used for maintenance in the next few years.

Chilean Ambassador to Argentina Carlos Figueroa believes that the consolidation of this process has been due to the sweeping economic reforms carried out by the Argentine Government, in addition to the current political stability. He also indicates that this process is respected even though the press speaks about a virtual Chilean invasion.

[Figueroa] No; I believe that there is no fear. On the contrary, I believe that the government, the business sector, and the sector that analyzes the economy see this as an important contribution.

[Unidentified reporter] Today many Chileans provide a series of services in this country; they work in the industrial field and they also advise several organizations on the coming implementation of a private social security organization.

In such an enormous sphere as that, privatizations open up new horizons for such enterprises as Chilgener and Chilquinta in areas that we would consider strategic.

The Chilean consortium will continue to evaluate privatizations that will be made in this sector in Argentina and thus determine new investment.

From Buenos Aires by the special correspondents of "24 Hours." [end recording]

Poll Shows Decreasing Support for Politicians

PY2403182692 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] According to a poll taken between 3 and 15 March by CERC, the Center for Contemporary Reality Studies, Chilean political leaders have suffered a serious setback. In fact, approximately 85 percent of those polled from Arica down to Puerto Montt said that most politicians consider the people only at election time.

CERC researcher Marta Lagos reported that 53.1 of those polled believe that General Augusto Pinochet, the Army commander in chief, has hindered the work of the current government.

The poll also asked the people's opinion on politicians, in line with their engagement in political life.

[Begin Lagos recording] We can see that even though some politicians have obtained higher percentages with respect to their indexes in October, they are still below their average level for each politician. This means that even Eduardo Frei, who has the highest index—5.27—suffers the effect of the bad image of politicians because his index dropped compared to his previous index level. No, [corrects himself] excuse me, Eduardo Frei's index has increased. Gabriel Valdes is in the second place with 4.99 percent, and Evelyn Matthei in the third place with 4.82 percent. Andres Zaldivar is fourth with 4.71, and then Sebastian Pinera with 4.69. Jose Antonio Viera Gallo closes the list with 4.64. [end recording]

Lagos explained that National Renewal President Andres Allamand remains the opposition leader with the highest index, 17.9 percent. He is followed by Senator Sebastian Pinera with 13.6 percent.

Among government officials, the highest popularity index goes to Education Minister Ricardo Lagos, who since July 1991 has received the support of approximately 16 percent of the people. Today he has 16.1 percent. Next is Finance Minister Alejandro Foxley with 9.6 percent.

Colombia

Government To Continue Talks With CNGSB

PA2503190592 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] The government has expressed its intention to continue peace talks with the guerrillas, but it will demand a cease-fire and the liberation of any persons who have been kidnapped. President Gaviria spoke about this topic with a group of Liberal deputies.

At a meeting with Liberal deputies a few minutes ago, President Cesar Gaviria announced the government's willingness to continue the talks with the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB].

A group of senators asked him not to resume the talks until the guerrillas stopped their violent acts.

The president of the Republic explained the steps the government is taking to attain peace. Although he stated the government's willingness to continue the talks, he did not say when or under what new conditions the talks with the CNGSB wouls resume.

[Begin recording] [Senator Amilcar Acosta] We reiterated to the president our support for the government's proposal to not hold any more talks until the CNGSB agrees to end their violence.

[Senator Rafael Amador] We must demand a cease-fire and the delivery of all persons being held captive or kidnapped, but we cannot refuse to continue the peace process.

[Senator Tiberio Villareal] The government is willing to continue the negotiations, the talks. That is what President Gaviria has told us. I hope they succeed.

[Senator Alvaro Uribe Velez] The president defended the strategy of the dialogue. [end recording]

The president of the Republic will attend Argelino Duran's funeral services on 25 March.

CNGSB Issues Communique

PA2503233292 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 23 Mar 92 p 7a

[Communique issued by the negotiating commission of the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board, CNGSB; place and date not given]

[Text] 1. The negotiating commission of the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] regrets the death of Dr. Argelino Duran Quintero and condemns the events that led to this tragedy.

2. From the beginning, the negotiating commission made efforts to quickly find a positive solution to the situation that had developed. The representative of the Popular Liberation Army at the negotiations was responsive to our concerns and released the CNGSB from all responsibility in these events. He also promised to obtain a clear and convincing explanation from his organization once communications with Colombia are reestablished.

3. We think the negotiations should not be disrupted by the daily tragedies that occur in our fatherland. It is necessary to end the break in the talks and continue to discuss the topics on the agenda without trying to use the death of the former minister to modify the agreements that have been reached.

4. Under no circumstances will we accept the imposition of any conditions to continue the talks. The country wants political solutions and will reject attempts to use any kind of blackmail to continue the talks.

5. The violence and economic and social crisis in Colombia demands in-depth answers and solutions. We express our sympathy to Colombians for the present situation, and we reaffirm that the only way to get out of this dilemma in which the country is immersed is by reaching an agreement and having the will to implement it. Negotiating Commission CGSB

Report on Interview With AD/M-19 Leader

PA2603002892 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 22 Mar 92 p 17a

[Report on interview with Antonio Navarro Wolff, leader of the 19 April Movement Democratic Alliance, AD/M-19, by EL TIEMPO staff; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Antonio Navarro Wolff lives under strict security measures to which he has become accustomed. When he moved into a house specially built for him in Chapinero, it was rumored that he had surrounded himself with luxury. There is no evidence of the rumored luxury. [passage omitted]

Antonio Navarro began by talking about a topic he really enjoys: the election of Father Bernardo Hoyos as the new mayor of Barranquilla. Father Hoyos had been the 19 April Movement Democratic Alliance [AD/M-19] candidate in a coalition with the Faud Char group.

He goes on to point out all sort of statistics and figures, as well as possible solutions to the water and garbage problems. According to Mr. Navarro, in statistical terms, Barranquilla is comparable to Haiti. He points out that "the priest is going to need a miracle."

He is visibly concerned about Barranquilla. He is well aware that Colombia will keep a close watch on the AD/M-19 management in Barranquilla. The uncertain future of his political movement depends on a good administration.

Mr. Navarro is aware of the concerns related to the AD/M-19's future. Moreover, after pondering the issue, he acknowledges that the AD/M-19 congressmen have not done enough, and there is a certain degree of inactivity in the movement's rank and file: "There are congressmen who are only interested in appearing in the newspapers and doing things they should not be doing." According to Mr. Navarro, one of the reasons behind this inaction is the fact that 17 of the total number of congressmen are demobilized and are not used to political mazes. There is a distinct weariness within the AD/M-19. It is undeniable and he admits it. He justifies it as part of the disorganization and division that arose within the movement during the last election campaign for mayors, councilmen, and deputies. He is aware that the results of the 8 March election revealed a growing popular dissatisfaction against AD/M-19: "We must identify and rectify those mistakes."

He rejects charges made by some of his associates related to the 'Navarrazation' [navarrizacion] of the movement. Mr. Navarro has opted instead to interpret the charges as a way of appearing in the newspapers: "The problem lies in that Navarro is a very important personality, and that is why they talk against him."

Mr. Navarro takes the opportunity to defend the AD/M-19's position before the government. According to him, all is clear, which does not necessarily mean that it is clear to the rest of the world.

Search for New Agreements

When questioned on how long the AD/M-19 will support the government's policies, Navarro asks for time to explain. Not without first goading the president by saying: "Let him ask for complete solidarity from the Liberal Party."

According to Navarro, Camilo Gonzalez Posso is in charge of the Health Ministry because there was a political agreement with President Gaviria. The agreement was based on three points: the Constituent Assembly, peace policy, and health. The Constituent Assembly was a success, as was the peace policy (Popular Liberation Army, Quintin Lame....). Regarding health issues, President Gaviria should not expect to hear any complaints about his minister.

It was brought to his attention that the agreements are part of a phase that has ended. What is Camilo Gonzalez Posso still doing in the government?

Navarro's reasoning, which he repeats several times, is not convincing: Everyone expects him to leave the government just for the heck of it. He tries again and acknowledges that another agreement must be made, but the government must make the offer.

Does that mean the AD/M-19 will not take the first step in that direction? Do they not have a well-defined evaluation of why the AD/M-19 continues as part of Gaviria's cabinet? Navarro becomes a bit annoyed, but controls himself quite well. "What is under discussion is the government's model. We have become accustomed to relying solely on election results. There must be political guidelines."

Because that explanation is not clear, Navarro is asked for further explanations. The new agreement should identify the key points of official policy; negotiations can then continue from that point. Navarro tells of 76 government projects for which the government cannot hope to receive total solidarity from any of the parties.

"What does the government consider as key topics?" Navarro is also waiting for the government to explain what agreements it has made with other political forces.

For Navarro it is a way of stating that the AD/M-19 is unwilling, for the time being, to leave the government. The AD/M-19 (Navarro does not say this, but infers it) needs to implement government deeds before public opinion.

Navarro, however, hints at the possibility of the AD/M-19 leaving the government if it is decided by a "domestic democratic" organization. This organization, in the event it is created, would not meet for another two months. For the time being, Navarro announces the AD/M-19 will present an alternative to the official tax reform project. He is not very happy with the results—no results can be seen on the current government's declared opening.

What is surprising is the pragmatic way—very Colombian—with which Navaro sees politics. He says it is only during the electoral season when one should make unconventional alliances to become elected.

"Elections must be faced knowing the electoral mechanism, and one cannot win a mayor's seat without a coalition." In this regard, there is a principle that is difficult to obey: Form no coalitions with political bosses; form coalitions against political bosses. When Navarro is shown that AD/M-19 also makes alliances with political bosses, he has the perfect reply: This proves this city has a worse political boss...small consolation.

Navarro plays an ace: The AD/M-19's political profile will be made by the elected members. In this connection, he announces three fundamental ideas have been formed (honesty, efficiency and unity, and organization) and that a sort of internal comptroller's office will be created to ensure performance. This office will have contact with state control organizations.

Navarro explains the AD/M-19's crisis (this is not his word) through a very controversial analysis: There is a setback in the renewal that began with Cesar Gaviria's triumph and the expansion generated other processes. All this, according to Navarro, froze after the 27 October election results. Here is another acknowledgement of error by the top AD/M-19 leader: "The renovators from all sectors lost to the machinery, perhaps because there were opportunities we did not know how to handle."

Anyway, Navarro believes the AD/M-19 is still strong and shows evidence: The alliance has more elected officials than Luis Carlos Galan or the MRL [expansion unknown].

Navarro has an unavoidable topic: the peace process. He sees positions that are too far removed, but there is a great will. He favors forums and other acts for peace all over the country because the process is in danger of ending.

This is necessary because there are some very radical positions and the talks tend to drag on. In addition, the new cases of kidnappings, ambushes, and the death of civilians and soldiers in guerrilla attacks lessen the guerrillas' credibility and importance in the process.

While bidding farewell, Navarro mentions something that is worrisome for the AD/M-19's future and is noticeable in the country's agitated political outlook: "The buck stops here, but the AD/M-19 needs more leaders. Some of the ones we have are on loan."

Ecuador

Armed Forces Joint Chiefs Chairman Announced

PA2403160192 Paris AFP in Spanish 2318 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Quito, 20 March (AFP)—The Defense Ministry announced on 20 March that Admiral Hugo Unda Aguirre, chairman of Ecuador's Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff, will retire and his post will be occupied by Navy Commander Admiral German Yepez.

Unda requested his retirement on 17 March, and it was accepted by General Humberto Jorge Felix, national defense minister.

It has been explained that Unda is retiring from the military for personal reasons. The retirement falls within the framework of military regulations.

Unda had occupied the post of chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff since a few days after Social Democrat Rodrigo Borja took office as president of the Republic in August 1988.

Yepez is presently in Chile with the commander of the Army. They are attending a meeting of high-ranking Latin American military officers.

Paraguay

Editorial Reviews Relations With U.S.

PY2403233492 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 21 Mar 92 p 18

[Text] Relations between Paraguay and the United States are going through a stage that, in light of recent experiences, needs to be reviewed in order to contribute to improving the results obtained so far.

We all know that two agricultural products constitute the bulk of our exports: cotton and soybeans. But we find customs and other types of barriers that conspire against free trade, and U.S. policies that discriminate precisely against these two items. We find our growth possibilities limited because U.S. policies close the potentially largest market to our products.

Thus our desire to lower the barriers raised by industrialized countries against our agroindustrial products and meat. We would like to see a more equitable treatment and more help to increase the market for our products.

Our industries require large capital movement for development. The new investment law grants domestic and foreign capital the same treatment and ensures the possibility of remitting profits and dividends without restrictions on the latter. We also are involved in negotiations with the Paris Club and the IMF to solve the foreign debt problem we inherited from the previous regime.

It is also worth pointing our that our legislation on intellectual property protects trademarks and international patents more than many other laws. The government—through authorized spokesmen—has made clear its decision to cooperate with the United States in this field, more so when there are no legal claims of violations in this area.

The opportunities for U.S. investors have broadened now that we firmly march toward integration through the Mercosur [Common Market of the South]. Investors will find more prospects for important business as they invest in the country, and the results will be positive for both.

Other achievements that might interest our friends of the North can be summarized as follows: We have approved a tax law that is clear, simple, and easy to understand; we are speeding the privatization of public companies; we are directing our economic and financial policies to the formulation of a market system where companies will operate freely and with full guarantees.

All these factors are based on a democratic system that we constantly are improving and an electoral schedule that is being fulfilled without problems. This climate of institutional stability favors the image that the country wants to project to the international community.

Finally, we are determined to improve our human resources through the professional training of workers; here, U.S. cooperation is decisive. If the Unites States understands this picture, we are sure that U.S. investments in Paraguay will increase, strengthening our mutual solidarity and favoring more fluid relations, the result of which will be very beneficial for the Paraguayan and U.S. peoples.

Government 'Would Not Oppose' Stroessner's Return

PY2403152892 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 19 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] Upon leaving a meeting of Colorado Party conventioneers at the National Defense Ministry last night, Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken said that if former President Alfredo Stroessner wants to return to our country he must be tried by the courts.

The foreign minister thus commented on the announcement a few days ago by Dr. Hiran Delgado Von Leppel, the former president's nephew and an attorney in our country. He said that Stroessner intends to return to our country as soon as possible and that he is even willing to be tried by the courts.

The foreign minister said: "The problem is neither with the government nor with the executive branch. There are, indeed, trials to be faced but I believe there is no constitutional impediment." He added that if the former president returns to Paraguay he "must be tried by the courts."

The foreign minister stressed: "If there is no impediment he can return and I believe the government would not oppose it."

The foreign minister explained that the Foreign Ministry has not officially received any petition from Stroessner in this regard, recalling that our country's former strong man asked for political asylum in Brazil.

"We have no information," the foreign minister said, hinting at the fact that Stroessner's petition was not serious, that it was meant to test the water.

Defense Minister General Angel Souto Hernandez, retired, also voiced his opinion on this issue. He said that he has not analyzed the possibility of Stroessner's return.

The defense minister said: "I sincerely have not analyzed it; but if he dares to return, well, I believe we are living in democracy here. He is convinced that he does not owe anything to anyone. I cannot voice an opinion in this regard."

In conclusion, the defense minister said that the idea of Stroessner's alleged return follows the saying, "Every Paraguayan has the right to live in his fatherland"

Dr. Luis Maria Argana, the acting Colorado Party president, initially denied being involved in alleged activities to effect Stroessner's return, as expressed by a publication. Argana said: "Every Paraguayan has the right to live in his fatherland, whoever he is and whatever his deeds. If he has unsettled accounts with the courts, he will have to settle them."

New Official for Privatizations Appointed

PY2503142492 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 20 Mar 92 p 13

[Summary] Finance Minister Juan Jose Diaz Perez has announced the appointment of engineer Roberto Olmedo Perez as the executive director of the National Council for Privatizations, CNP. Perez will be in charge of the national privatization plan which includes five state companies: Paraguayan Alcohol Administration, Apal; Paraguay Steel Enterprise, Acepar; Paraguayan Airlines, LAP; National Cement Industry, INC; and the State Merchant Fleet, Flomeres.

New Officials Appointed in Finance Ministry

PY2503145892 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 17 Mar 92 p 12

[Summary] The government has made the following appointments in the Finance Ministry: Orlando Bareiro Aguilera as budget general director, replacing Elizardo Gonzalez who was appointed accounting general director; Casilda del Rosario de Schneider as treasury general director, replacing Miguel Isidro Mayor Perez who was appointed regulations and procedures general director; and Fabio Rafael Rojas Corrales as retirement and pensions director.

Laino Accepts Presidential Nomination

PY2503144092 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 12 Mar 92 p 10

[Summary] Domingo Laino, executive board member of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, PLRA, has accepted the presidential nomination. He was proposed by a large number of party members during an act held in a downtown hotel today.

Peru

IDB, Japan Grant Loans for Economic Reforms

PY2503171892 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 19 Mar 92 p A21

[Report by EXPRESO correspondent Edgar Triveri]

[Excerpt] Washington—The Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] on 18 March approved a $200 million loan to readjust Peru's financial sector, and an additional $21.825 million to be used for "institutional improvement and technical assistance for the institutions that are participating in the financial program." In addition to the IDB contribution, another $100 million will be provided by the Japanese Government. This is part of the $127 million that was announced on 17 March in Tokyo, where President Alberto Fujimori is currently visiting.

This is a 20-year loan and it will be used to readjust four large areas of the financial sector: 1. To reduce the state participation in the commercial banking sector. 2. To "reorganize" and rationalize the Development Department of the Bank of the Nation. 3. To reorganize the Central Reserve Bank and the reform of its statutes, and 4. To reorganize the Banking and Insurance Superintendency. [passage omitted]

* Fujimori on Regional Integration, Other Issues

92SM0305A Santiago LA NACION in Spanish 17 Feb 92 pp 6-7

[Interview with President Alberto Fujimori by Pedro Vega in Lima; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted]

[Vega] President Fujimori, what is it that most concerns you at this time about Peru?

[Fujimori] There are four problems to which we directly attach the same priority: the economic crisis, the struggle against terrorism, the struggle against narcotics traffic, and the social emergency program.

[Vega] You have taken initiatives aimed at resolving some aspects of current or old quarrels with neighboring countries. Does this only involve resolving border problems or do you have broader intentions regarding Peru and Latin American integration?

[Fujimori] I start from the principle that in reality in our countries these misunderstandings should not continue. Therefore, we tried to take some imaginative steps. Even bold steps were considered at one time: for example, my visit to Ecuador. I have the intention of seeking much more cordial relationships with all neighboring countries, and this should not be merely a matter of words.

We all have a program for integration. I do not want this to remain just subject matter for speeches. We should be much more pragmatic about what we think and say. The fundamental aspect in this process is that this lack of communications and these misunderstandings are disappearing. I have begun this process with our neighbors to the North. You have seen the reception which I have had from the Ecuadorian people. I am sure that this situation is going to mold public opinion and is certainly going to be noticed by politicians.

We cannot waste our meager resources on defense expenditures. We have to use them for concrete and urgent objectives.

We also wanted to take imaginative action with Bolivia: giving it a stretch of coast, plus complete commercial facilities. A coastal zone in which the Bolivians can feel that they have access to the Pacific Ocean.

[Vega] Blacker Miller, your minister of foreign relations, recently made a visit to Chile which was called successful by both countries, at the very moment when you were signing the treaty with Bolivia. What stood out from that visit?

[Fujimori] That was a mission which I personally entrusted to the minister, to put in concrete form previous contacts which I had with President Aylwin. I was very happy to see that a program of free transit has been arranged between the two countries, eliminating the need to have a visa. The objective is to resolve all pending matters which may exist. I hope that this will be accomplished very quickly. There is a political decision to do so on our part, and I see the same thing in Chile.

[Vega] Do you think that the access to the sea which Peru has just given Bolivia could have an influence on the objectives of your forthcoming official visit to Chile?

[Fujimori] More particularly it is going to consolidate our objective of achieving the effective integration of all of our countries, particularly on this side of the South American continent. I do not think that it can be interpreted in any other sense than real integration.

[Vega] How do you see the present situation in Latin America?

[Fujimori] Latin America is in a very rapid stage of evolving toward modernization. This is a process of convergence, without previous agreement, with everyone trying to set up programs of adjustments which will make it possible to establish a market economy. And on the other hand there is a will toward integration, toward the establishment of more solid groups that can deal with groups of foreign countries.

I can speak in terms of the Andean Pact. During the past 12 months very important and significant progress has been made, which would have been unimaginable two years ago.

[Vega] Do you think that the democracies of Latin America are sufficiently consolidated so that they will not again go through the nightmares of coups d'etat, as we have just seen in Venezuela?

[Fujimori] What happened in Venezuela was an isolated event, almost a work of fiction, caused by a group which is not representative of the Armed Forces.

Regarding the armed forces, a review going on in terms of their function, which is mentioned in the constitutions of the countries of Latin America. The objective is to preserve democracy more effectively. The armed forces are going to continue playing a very important role in achieving this.

[Vega] In this context, do you consider that the Peruvian Armed Forces have a difficult mission to perform for the country?

[Fujimori] In the Peruvian case they have a very special mission, particularly in the government, because in addition to the specific role which the Armed Forces have, I have given them a pacification mission from the civic and social point of view. That is, the Armed Forces are carrying out small development projects to gain the confidence of the people and thus be able to fight against terrorism.

This is a new role which the Armed Forces are fully handling and with results which can already be seen. However, they are going to be seen fully when the country is totally pacified. I can reiterate that the country is going to be pacified by 1995.

[Vega] How would you evaluate the cost of violence for the people?

[Fujimori] Obviously, violence is going to continue. It is not going to disappear quickly. Since this is a social process, it takes time. Progress is being made, and the evaluation of the struggle against terrorism is determined by the number of people killed. There may be many more victims, because it is very easy to kill people. However, if the people adopt a position of growing opposition to terrorism, then that will mean that progress is being made against terror.

[Vega] You have been called a president who has both western and oriental characteristics. Do you think that you have practiced a style of governing that is new, both in Peru and in Latin America?

[Fujimori] In all modesty I believe that it is a totally novel style. For example, on matters concerning legislation or measures of an economic character I have taken a very firm position, exposing such matters to public opinion without any reservation or supposed compromises.

In Peru it has been a very common practice to seek mutual concessions of all kinds, whether good or bad. That has disappeared. Of course, this has produced a reaction by the affected groups which at times has been violent, because I present diagnoses and proposals in a very frank and critical way. I have openly criticized Congress and the courts. At times I have even had collisions with the Catholic Church.

It is necessary to deal with all the obstacles that make it difficult for Peru to emerge from a state of underdevelopment. In this respect, fortunately, I also have the support of public opinion.

[Vega] Does that mean that the executive branch of the government should be above the other branches of the state, regulating their autonomous powers in that way?

[Fujimori] This is the first time in Peru that the executive branch is acting in an autonomous way. There should be autonomy for the various branches of the government. Previously, that kind of balance between the branches of government did not exist. Rather, it was the legislative branch which always had the power to criticize the executive and, at times, to prevent action by the executive by adopting certain measures or by entering into agreements. In the face of such practices the executive normally remained silent.

[Vega] In this connection, what is your concept of democracy?

[Fujimori] Well, democracy in Peru is not a kind of democracy which has reached its maximum level of authenticity. We are still engaged in a process of consolidating democracy. The participation of the people in decisions which determine the destiny of the country has been minimal. In some cases representation in the legislative branch, which supposedly should be of the people, has not always been a reality, because in those cases there have been agreements by party leaders which take precedence over popular expectations.

[Vega] The polls indicate that your administration of the government has the support of a majority of the people. Nevertheless, the experience of your most recent predecessors shows that there has been a change in that level of support after two years in government. How do you hope to break with this tradition?

[Fujimori] That tradition has already been broken, in the sense that the reasoning is false. It comes from some of the communications media that are in open opposition to the government and which report that everything is bad. I say that the reasoning is false because the two previous presidents (Belaunde and Garcia) started from a high level of support and adopted populist measures.

This government has started from a diametrically opposed point, with difficult measures, with sacrifice. Imagine how it will be when the economic situation improves. As a result, it is difficult to foresee a substantial fall in popular support. Everyone knows that this

government is administering the affairs of the country with honesty and seriousness.

[Vega] Then the Peruvian people can hope that the four problems which you mentioned at the beginning of this interview are going to be resolved during your term as president?

[Fujimori] To a significant extent. In the economic area we are moving away from bankruptcy, from the worst crisis recorded in the history of Latin America and perhaps one of the most serious in the world. Naturally, we are not going to be in the best possible position in 1995. However, we will be able to establish sound bases for the future development of Peru.

In terms of terrorism I have already said that we are going to make progress by around 1995.

Regarding social problems, we hope to reach all social classes in the country, including those who have always been forgotten. We will do this principally by means of development projects. And in this way we will gradually eliminate social differences. The state is going to ensure that health and educational services reach all classes.

The other area is that of the narcotics traffic. I cannot foresee a solution to this problem in the short time which we have between now and 1995, because this is an international problem. It does not depend on the resources of Peru, but rather on the support of other countries. This will be one of the problems which will still face us. [passage omitted]

[Vega] What do you think of Peru today, by comparison with the country when you entered office?

[Fujimori] I see that Peru has emerged from chaos, from uncertainty, from bankruptcy, from frustration, and from desperation to be a country which now has a clear road ahead of it. The people feel that they have hopes of a change, and this does not involve short term actions. Rather, on all matters, there is a program for the medium term. The people in the streets are saying this: we are suffering now, but at least our children are going to have better living conditions.

The Example of the Chilean Model

[Vega] How would you evaluate present relations between Chile and Peru?

[Fujimori] Personally, I have a very close relationship with President Patricio Aylwin. I have had the honor of receiving a visit from him on the day when I entered office. We agree on the objectives of bringing our democracies steadily toward better living levels and of having an impact on the welfare of the people. Relationships with Chile have traditionally been fraternal.

[Vega] As a Peruvian, how do you see Chile?

[Fujimori] Here in Peru all Peruvians, and I include myself among them, look to Chile with admiration because it is setting an example. Chile has a model which is being steadily improved, and it is one of the countries with the greatest drive in Latin America.

In some areas, such as the export sector, I think that Chile has made a great deal of progress. The same is true in the field of social security, with measures which are being put into practice in other countries. As a result Chile is seen as an admirable country.

[Vega] How do you think the Chileans see Peru?

[Fujimori] I suppose that they see Peru through the pictures on the television screen, which are now available very quickly. These are pictures which generally show acts of terror and crime. The picture of reality in this country which is being received abroad is incorrect. There are very positive aspects which I believe are not known, so that my presence in Chile is going to correct some mistaken views.

[Vega] From the point of view of a free market policy, it would seem that Chile is now an important point of reference for Peruvian economic groups. In your view, is an economic model, like that of Chile, desirable in Peru?

[Fujimori] We are introducing legislation for the establishment of a free market economy. In some aspects Chile is clearly ahead of us. However, this does not necessarily mean that the Chilean model is going to be transplanted to Peru.

What we need to emphasize is that in some cases Chile has made some notable progress. I could mention the specific case of women administering social security funds. This is an excellent model on which we are working. And there are also other fields: for example, you Chileans have promoted exports very well, something which is not only to the advantage of Peru but of all of Latin America. [passage omitted]

Photo Caption

1. p. 6 (top of page): President Fujimori has turned Kenyi, his young son, into a supporter of his administration of the government. Fujimori said, when his son burst into his office in the middle of this interview, "His presence is a novel ingredient in politics and has had a great effect."

Venezuela

Perez Stresses Democracy as System of Government

PA2603013592 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] In Calabozo, Guarico State, President Carlos Andres Perez, after reaffirming the social concerns of his administration and announcing that social programs will be intensified and accelerated, said there is no danger that democracy will cease being Venezuela's system of government.

[Begin Perez recording] Many things are being said, but the people know this democratic government is meeting their needs. [applause] That is why I was so pleased to see when I arrived here that you were not cheering for the president or for the government, but for democracy, which is the system we represent. [applause]

There is no danger, Guarico friends, that democracy will cease being the system of government in Venezuela. There are some who wish that this were the case, who betrayed the Constitution, and who tried to topple the government. However, they are an insignificant minority who already are being punished by the rejection and repudiation of all Venezuelans. [applause]

Should you see a soldier or an officer of the Armed Forces, I urge you to greet him with affection, because on 4 February the Armed Forces demonstrated that they are defending Venezuelan democracy. [applause] [end recording]

Rumor of Perez Seeking Asylum in Mexico Denied

PA2503163892 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] According to the Caracas daily EL UNIVERSAL, the Venezuelan Government has rejected rumors of the possibility that President Carlos Andres Perez will seek asylum in Mexico in the event his political and economic reforms fail.

The pro-government Democratic Action [AD] party rejected the press report that said President Perez would seek asylum in Mexico should he not receive support for his government program. Luis Emilio Rondon, AD official spokesman, rejected the reports that have been published for two consecutive days by the influential Caracas dailies EL NACIONAL and EL UNIVERSAL.

The government, which on 23 March began to confront pressure from the media for a new cabinet change, has not taken an official stand. According to the newspaper, when Perez met last week with members of his party, he said that should Congress approve reducing his term of office, scheduled to end in 1994, he would seek asylum in Mexico.

AD spokesman Luis Emilio Rondon, who with some 30 members of the pro-government party met with Perez, denied the party leadership has asked for the president's resignation or supports a reduction of his term. Rondon declined to comment on the alleged asylum.

Ordaz Urges Solving Problems Through Work

PA2603023692 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] When questioned by the local press, Interior Minister Luis Pinerua Ordaz referred to the wave of common crime sweeping the country. The minister urged the community to realize that the nation's problems can only be solved through work; only then can the results of the government's actions in the remedial process be seen. We have Minister Pinerua.

[Begin Pinerua recording] I am requesting—and I do so democratically and even dramatically—that it be understood that the fulfillment of our responsibility to fight common crime currently is being hampered and limited by the recent street riots that are disturbing public order. We know that there are plans to carry out more demonstrations; these plans are being carried out in the countryside. These actions frustrate police and public force efforts to maintain order.

I urge Venezuelan women, patriots, and all those involved in these activities, Venezuelans in general, citizens in general, students, and particularly the organizers of such activities—which certainly are illegal in view of the suspension of Constitutional guarantees—to understand that the problems can be resolved by working. Many of these problems will be resolved through the dialogue we are engaged in and the knowledge that we have obtained through our contacts with those who are experiencing these problems. To be able to work, however, we must be given some time and we must be given the opportunity. Our attention must not be drawn away from work; we should not be forced to focus our attention on peripheral issues. These are peripheral from the point of view of the community's interest in seeing its problems resolved. These issues, however, are undoubtedly important if they deal with the government's responsibility to maintain public order. Please let us work. Help us work, because it is only in this way that we will see in a short time the results of our actions in the remedial process we are engaged in. [end recording]

Deputies Comment on Pardon for Coup Participants

PA2603043292 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] The possibility of granting a pardon to the officers who participated in the 4 February coup attempt has had mixed reception among the country's leaders. The majority believes it is advisable to continue with the trial.

[Begin recording] [Deputy Luis Emilio Lopez, Social Christian Party] I think each case must be individually reviewed so that the head of the state, the one who should sponsor such a measure, can evaluate it. I believe it would be senseless to evaluate everyone in the same manner. I think each case should be handled individually.

[Deputy Moises Moleiro, Movement of the Revolutionary Left] It is advisable and wise for the president of the republic to exercise his authority and discontinue the trial. I do not think 62 percent of Venezuelans reject this view although I am sure 62 percent of the Venezuelans rejected the coup. However, I think this would be a sound political measure.

[Deputy Reinaldo Cervini, Independent] I agree with the pardon, particularly because it first involves a trial and then a solution to a national problem which resulted

from the foiled military coup. During former President Rafael Caldera's administration, the peace process involved a pardon and this represented a great solution for Venezuela in times of unrest. I think our current political, economic, and social situation requires an overall peace process so we can look forward to a peaceful future. Hence my position in favor of a pardon.

[Deputy Luis Emilio Rondon, Democratic Action] I believe that whoever ignobly threatened the lives of Venezuelans because of their ambitions for power does not deserve a pardon or amnesty right now. The relatives of the soldiers and civilians who died in the coup attempt cannot be interested in seeing the possibility of a pardon come true. I think the appropriate and necessary thing to do is to continue with the legal process and punish the culprits with the sanctions established by the military justice code.

[Deputy Bernardo Horando, New Generation Movement] I think that Venezuelans who commit a constitutional crime for which corresponding sanctions exist must be tried and, if the president later considers it appropriate, he can pardon them. The pardon should happen later. In any case, I think a pardon is not appropriate right now for the soldiers who participated in the coup. On the contrary, I think they should stand trial. The corrupt should also go to prison with the soldiers. [end recording]

National Guard Raids University in Cumana

PA2603005292 Paris AFP in Spanish 2341 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Cumana, Venezuela, 25 Mar (AFP)—The local INNAC News Agency has reported that the National Guard this afternoon raided the University of the East (UDO) in Cumana, 300 km east of Caracas, to put an end to serious disturbances, including the looting and destruction of business offices. INNAC said that the National Guard arrested several students inside the UDO campus.

There were protests at the university in Cumana earlier this week to make demands and even request the resignation of President Carlos Andres Perez. The protests degenerated today into serious disturbances that resulted in the destruction of the main private food distribution center, although the National Guard prevented it from being looted.

The disorders took place in various parts of the city. In one area, a supermarket was looted and in another, several businesses were destroyed. Meanwhile, tires burned in the streets, interrupting the flow of traffic.

INNAC said Army members reinforced police and National Guard units to put an end to the disturbances and to reestablish order. The National Guard even used a helicopter to drop tear gas on strategic points to disperse the protesters.

There were no reports on the number of arrested or on whether any people were injured.

There were violent incidents this past week at the universities in the Andean cities of Merida, Bocono, Trujillo, San Cristobal, and the petroleum-producing city of Maracaibo.

Four More Supreme Court Justices Resign

PA2503170592 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1605 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Caracas, 25 Mar (EFE)— It has been announced that the crisis affecting the Supreme Court of Justice worsened on 25 March, when four of 11 justices resigned, raising the number of vacancies in the top court to seven.

Justices Adan Febres Cordero, Jesus Moreno Guacaran, Otto Marin, and Dario Velandia announced their retirement from the top court.

The court accepted the resignations of Febres Cordero and Moreno Guacaran but deferred discussion of Marin and Velandia's petitions until next week.

Chief Justice Pedro Alid Zoppi and Justices Roman Duque Corredor and Cipriano Heredia retired two weeks ago.

The justices' resignations were prompted by a congressional decision to reform the judicial branch by electing five new justices to replace those whose nine year terms have expired.

Justice Moreno Guacaran was questioned by Prosecutor General Ramon Escovar Salom because he was a justice during the first two years of this government and later returned to his post in the Supreme Court, which the prosecutor considers inappropriate.

In his resignation letter, Moreno Guacaran criticized the existence of a list of judges who are candidates to replace the Supreme Court justices.

Judge Dario Velandia said an investigation should be conducted to determine whether or not the candidates have accepted money from abroad. Those who have should be disqualified for "treason."

The other justice who has been questioned by different political and legal sectors is Otto Marin, who has been accused of belonging to a sort of legal mafia directed by Democratic Action Senator David Morales.

The judicial branch reform raises the number of justices on the Supreme Court board of directors to 14 and establishes that the justices must act autonomously and not in accordance with partisan politics.